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Friday October 25 1996

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Czechia K 12.50
Cyprus C 1.00
Denmark D 16
Ecuador E 15
Finland F 12
France F 10
Germany G 4.40
Greece G 4.00
Hong Kong H 25
Hungary H 250
Ireland I 1.20
Italy I 3.00
Japan J 125
Korea K 125
Latvia L 125
Lithuania L 125
Luxembourg L 200
Malta M 1.20
Netherlands N 1.20
New Zealand N 1.20
Norway N 16
Pakistan P 10
Poland P 25
Portugal P 25
Romania R 10
Russia R 10
South Africa S 10
Spain S 10
Sweden S 10
Switzerland S 10
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Thailand T 17.50
Turkey T 17.50
USA USA 2.75
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Friday Review



Why they want to ban Michael Collins

Neil Jordan on his new film



The ten greatest pop videos of all time

Music page 10

Weather

Parents win right to shun life-saving transplant for son

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

The parents of an 18-month-old boy who will die without a liver transplant won the backing of three appeal court judges yesterday for their decision not to subject him to the operation.

ously ill children, to decide what was best for their son. The boy was born in April 1995 with a life-threatening liver defect. His mother, aged 27, joined his father, 32, who had taken a job abroad, coincidentally just before a liver became available for transplant. After she refused to bring the child back for the operation, the local social services department won a High Court ruling ordering her to bring him home.

"enormously relieved" that her appeal against the order had been upheld. "She has been under enormous stress. She has asked for time to consider her position in its entirety."

Without the transplant, the child has been given a maximum 18 months to live. But his parents believe he would suffer months of pain after an operation from which he might not survive, or which would not necessarily prolong his life. Children given liver transplants undergo a long, complicated operation followed by episodes of rejection and infections, during which they take immunosuppressive drugs. But of 200 children who had liver transplants at the Children's Hospital, Birmingham, 80 per cent were alive five years later.

Lady Justice Butler-Sloss said in her judgment: "I believe the best interests of this child require that his future treatment should be left in the hands of his devoted parents." But she said once the "pressure of litigation" is over, the parents may want to reconsider whether to return to Britain for further medical assessments of their child.

Lord Justice Waite said the case posed a great dilemma for the court, as it did to Mr Justice Connell in the High Court when he ordered the mother home. Doctors of the "highest expertise" unanimously recommended the treatment, saying it involved a "minor level of risk" which was well worth taking in the child's long-term interests. "What is the court to do in such a situation?"

Lord Justice Waite said the courts were compelled, acting as a judicial parent, to substitute the judge's views over those of natural parents — "even in a case where the views are supported by qualities of devotion, commitment, love and reason". These "lonely and worrying" choices fell on judges who must make "the momentous decision which the child patient cannot take for himself".

Lord Justice Roch said: "This is a desperately difficult case." The medical evidence stressed that if the boy did not have a liver transplant he would die within months, and that there were good prospects for a favourable outcome to an operation, he said. But because of their training the parents were "uniquely well-qualified" to make the decision, and it could not be said it was unreasonable. Lady Justice Butler-Sloss said the mother's attitude was influenced by an earlier operation which was unsuccessful and caused the baby "pain and distress".



"In the village of Sarchesma only four out of 120 homes are unscathed. Half a dozen lorries piled high with the remains of people's livelihood lurched along the dirt road in the opposite direction as we drove in. Women and children perched on top, men hung from the sides." Jonathan Steele, page 6

Blair push for knives U-turn

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR intensified the battle for populist support yesterday when he tried to force the Government into another U-turn — this time over the banning of combat knives — after meeting the widow and family of the murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence.

Mr Blair, in a repeat of the tactics he used on Wednesday to force the Government to change tack on stalking and paedophiles' register, offered to co-operate with John Major on a bill to outlaw knives available over the counter in martial arts shops or from mail order catalogues.

Downing Street, careful not to be wrong-footed again, said it would consider Mr Blair's offer. The Home Office was lukewarm, saying it was difficult to find a workable definition of a combat knife that would distinguish it from a kitchen knife.

A spokesman for the shadow home secretary, Jack Straw, boasted Labour could come up with a definition: "Everyone knows the kind of knives we mean." He suggested as a first step restrictions on advertising of knives that "incite or condone violence".

The Liberal Democrats, after talks with Labour, offered to participate in cross-party talks at the Home Office.

Mr Blair met Frances Lawrence and two of her four children in his office yesterday morning. Earlier this week Mrs Lawrence, whose husband was stabbed to death, included a ban on knives in her agenda for a moral regeneration of Britain. She described shops selling combat knives as "symbols of evil".



Blades for sale

- AMK Warrior "skull-crusher" with curved serrated blade: £197.
- Combat Smatchet, with double-edged blade 12in by 3in: £295
- Special Forces Giant Bowie, curved 12in blade and serrated back: £39.99
- Vatagan Bowie 6.5in blade, heavy brass fittings, "designed to go with the arm to maximise the cutting effect": £27.50
- Commando knife, 6.5in double-edged serrated blade: £19.99
- Jack Pyke: machete-type 2ft blade: £97

knuckle-dusters to martial arts weapons such as a Kyokusho Shoge, a length of rope, wire or chain with a knife attached. Combat knives could be added if a workable definition could be found. Suggestions from other parties or the public would be welcomed.

The spokesman said the police already had powers to stop people carrying knives or other potential weapons in public.

Mrs Lawrence, who met Mr Major in the Commons in July, saw the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, earlier this week and is believed to have discussed a possible ban on combat knives.

The Home Office said: "We have been consulting with the police over the last few months, and we are continuing to do so, to try and find a workable definition of a combat knife that we could then use to ban them."

"We are very interested in any proposals from any party that could provide a workable definition."

Letters, page 8

Top taxman 'took bribes on breathtaking scale'

'Ghostbuster' was bought off with holidays and a prostitute, court told

Dean Atkinson

THE Inland Revenue's top "ghostbuster" was corrupted by the tax-avoiding phantoms he was supposed to be nailing, according to a court told yesterday. Michael Alcock repaid these favours by making generous tax settlements with his paymasters and shielding

them from inquiry, the court was told. "This is a case of corruption, of a public official taking bribes on a scale that... was quite breathtaking," said John Black, prosecuting Mr Alcock. He claimed, showed gifts on his mistress, holidayed at the finest hotels, and in five years of bribe-taking banked £155,000 in cash. Mr Black said: "He lived above his means — buying expensive cars and clothes. He had building work done at his home. He educated his son

privately, threw extravagant parties and always had money to spend." He explained this by saying his wife had inherited and his father gave him money, the court heard. Mr Alcock had been "bought off", Mr Black added, as a result of which the Inland Revenue had lost hundreds of thousands of pounds in tax. Mr Black was speaking on the first day of the trial. Mr Alcock had, until his suspension in September 1992, been one of the most respected of Inland Revenue special officers, famed for his ability to extract back-tax from the wealthy. He worked for an office that specialised

in persuading "ghosts" with no tax identity to pay up. The team was sometimes known as "Ghostbusters". Mr Alcock, aged 47, from Colchester, Essex, denies 12 charges of accepting bribes between June 1987 and October 1992. His co-defendants, oil consultant Esham Alwan, aged 58, and businessman David Shammoun, aged 68, from West Kensington, London, deny offering bribes. Three other men are also named as having bribed Mr Alcock. Counts one to six relate to Mr Alwan, from Knightsbridge, central London, with whom Mr Alcock settled back-tax in 1986 for £120,000.

The Crown claimed Mr Alcock ensured Mr Alwan did not have to pay the money, which remains outstanding. In 1989 Mr Alwan introduced Mr Alcock to Michelle Corrigan, then a prostitute. Mr Alwan "paid for her to spend the night with Mr Alcock." Mr Alcock then saw Miss Corrigan regularly. She became his mistress, and Mr Alwan paid for hotel bills for the couple, the prosecution said. Counts seven and eight relate to Mr Alcock and a man who cannot be named for legal reasons. Mr X was a man whose wealth Mr Alcock likened to that of a billionaire to page 3, column 1



Michael Alcock... repaid for generous assessments?

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Obituaries, 10
Friday Review
Crossword 15, Weather 16,
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Sketch

Rifkind's lesson goes up the pole



Simon Hoggart

A HUNDRED years ago, when a British foreign secretary thundered, the world shook. Even 50 years ago, as Leo Abse records in his new book — otherwise a vicious personal tirade against Tony Blair — Herbert Morrison could make a majestically boring speech, and expect to hear it repeated in full on the BBC.

Bhutan and Nepal". One expected Mr Winterton to demand that the Foreign Secretary send a gunboat. Nepal and Bhutan are both landlocked, and probably have no gunboats left, but these are minor details to a visionary like Mr Winterton.

Now it's more like a civics class. No wonder only 14 Labour backbenchers were in place to hear Malcolm Rifkind's swift tour d'horizon — if it's 3.17pm, it must be the Falklands.

First night

Just lie back and think of Elvis

Caroline Sullivan

Smokey Joe's Cafe — The Songs of Leiber and Stoller

Princes Of Wales Theatre

THIS revue could just as easily have been entitled Without Whom, because if Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller hadn't existed, rock 'n' roll might not have, either. In 1956, these wisecracking songwriters succeeded in irredeemably corrupting American youth, their weapons Elvis Presley and a tune called Hound Dog.

a glut of glowing pop tunes. Even before the opening Neighborhood parted to a halt, you were lying back and happily submitting.

Horsewomen will go to court

Peter Hetherington

THE Equal Opportunities Commission yesterday backed two women fighting for the right to take part in an annual horse-riding festival in the Scottish Borders.

linging the right of the all-male Hawick Common Riding Committee from the festival, a pageant which involves riding round the boundaries of the town.



The Ridings, where 35 teachers are heading towards a strike over pupil indiscipline. Gillian Shephard said the bigger problem was exam under-performance. PHOTOGRAPH BY ROSS PARRY

School faces 'hit squad'

Shephard may order takeover

John Carvel Education Editor

THE Government yesterday set the scene for a winter of discontent at the Ridings school in Halifax when Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, threatened to seize control from the local authority unless it rapidly commits itself to a plan for raising standards.

the staff, the local authority and government officials before ministers are legally entitled to take over.

ger problems" including serious under-performance in exams. In 1995 1 per cent of GCSE pupils achieved the target of five passes at grade C or above and last year this improved to only 7 per cent.

list of 61 children, since the eventual number could be more or less. But at least 20 pupils had been "dumped" on the Ridings after being excluded from other schools.

Alice Mahon, Labour MP for Halifax, intervened at the end of Mrs Shephard's news briefing to defend Calderdale council.

The Ridings school had been left with inadequate resources to handle the pupils who could not get in elsewhere.

Countdown

October 28: Emergency inspection starts, possibly delayed a few days while school finds new head.

October 29: NASUWT strike ballot ends.

November 4: Inspectors report verbally to Mrs Shephard.

November 12: First possible date for strike action.

Mid-November: Mrs Shephard gives school 40 days to draw up action plan.

End December: Calderdale gets 10 days to comment on plan.

Early January: Mrs Shephard either accepts plan, or proposes hit squad.

Mid-January: Two weeks' consultation on handing control to an "education association".



Expelled pupil Jamie Griffiths, 15, with his mother Sheridan Walton. NASUWT teachers say up to 10 per cent of the school's pupils should be dismissed

Hamilton ally joins sleaze inquiry

Former defence minister dislikes freedom of 'partisan' media

David Hencke Westminster Correspondent

THE Government last night appointed a strong supporter of disgraced former minister Neil Hamilton and a fierce critic of the freedom of the press to sit in judgment on the cash for questions inquiry.

and indeed was forced to resign. I think it would have been much better if he stayed in there because... we're coming under a tremendous amount of slur and innuendo by partisan members of the media to try and get rid of ministers.

start for a committee which desperately needs to convince the public that it will be open, fair and impartial.

John Beckwith CBE

rolling shareholder of Saladin is David Walker, a former SAS major and one-time Tory councillor. With the help of lobbying from Sir Archie, Mr Walker has met Foreign Office officials in an effort to obtain contracts for protecting British diplomats and embassies.

Mr Beckwith made clear to BBC Radio on 24 July, and we now accept that at the time our articles were published, he no longer intended to bid for the DSS properties.

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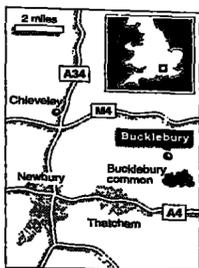
The Guardian Friday October 25 1996

Feudal war

You want a car also own drive. Certainly will be £ payable lord of the

Top taxman

Feudal war in Berkshire



You want to drive a car along your own driveway? Certainly — that will be £50,000 payable to the lord of the manor

Week Chaudhary

THE LORD of the manor and his uppy serfs are to lock horns in the High Court over a land dispute that has cost the villagers of Bucklebury, Berkshire, thousands of pounds for the privilege of parking in their own driveways.

The dispute between millionaire landowner Willie Hartley Russell and the residents of Bucklebury stems from an attempt by Mr Russell to use a mediaeval ruling which allows him to charge residents for crossing narrow strips of land that lead to their homes.

So far, those who have only pedestrian access to their homes have been exempt; those who have constructed driveways have been charged between £5,000 to £50,000. Up to 150 homes could face hefty bills.

The council claims Mr Hartley Russell, a Newbury district Tory councillor, has no right to charge residents for crossing his land because under a 1929 agreement they are responsible for managing parts of the land, which includes Bucklebury Common.

That has not prevented Mr Hartley Russell from charging residents like Ena and Nick Cornish £5,000 for crossing a strip of land barely 5ft wide that lies outside their home, so that they could park the family car in the driveway.

The couple were also served with a one-year injunction preventing them from driving their cars into their driveway after they contested the bill. After being advised by solicitors, they relented and paid the £5,000.

Mrs Cornish said: "I'm very angry at the fact that he can do this. There's a tiny strip of land outside our house that's part of the local common. I always thought that common land belonged to the common people."

Her husband Nick said: "Mr Hartley Russell might be legally right but morally he's totally wrong. People in this village just want this whole thing sorted out."

"I don't know why he's doing this. It's all a bit out of date now and you would have thought that this type of behaviour was a thing of the past."

Another resident was charged a staggering £50,000 for the privilege of using his 100-yard driveway.

According to locals, an elderly couple used their life savings to pay for the right of access to their home before they eventually sold it and moved out.

"He's not too popular around here at the moment," said a local butcher. "There's a lot of people who are very angry. They don't think he's behaving in a way you expect a lord to behave."



Ena Cornish and the strip of land which Willie Hartley Russell, top, charged her £5,000 to cross

Dr Tim Smith, who paid £25,000 so that he could drive across a small strip of land and park in the front of his house said: "Having listened to both sides of the argument, I am absolutely convinced that Mr Hartley Russell's estate has a weak case and the council has a strong one."

Mr Hartley Russell, aged 35, a flamboyant socialite who lives in a manor house near Bucklebury is said to enjoy skiing and hunting. He inherited the estate, which covers most of the village of Bucklebury, from his father, the Honourable Derrick Hartley Russell but did not inherit his title. Locals, however, still call him lord of the manor.

After the decision to take the dispute to the High Court was announced on Wednesday night he said: "I am delighted the matter is going to be resolved in the only way appropriate to both sides. "It comes down to a point of law that really needs to be sorted out."

Opposition to his levy has won cross-party support from Newbury district council. Deputy leader Tony Ferguson said: "I think there's an element of him trying to assert his feudal rights as lord of the manor and make money out of it. I think Mr Hartley Russell is very much isolated on this issue."

Top taxman 'took bribes' from wealthy

continued from page 1
Hoaxire. In February 1988, Mr Alcock accepted a £250,000 settlement from Mr X, despite, the Crown said, having previously demanded at least £500,000.

Mr X allegedly paid for Mr Alcock and a colleague to stay in Nice and be chauffeured around and entertained. In August and September 1988, Mr Alcock, his wife and son enjoyed a holiday in Nice, flying club class and staying at the Elysee Palace hotel on Mr X's bill.

Counts nine and 10 involve Mr Alcock and Lebanese businessman Marwan Kalo, involved in the Highland

Spring mineral water company. In early 1989, Mr Alcock settled back-tax on terms favourable to Mr Kalo — £50,000, the Crown said. Mr Alcock and a colleague visited Nice to be wine and dined and taken to a casino by Mr Kalo.

Counts 11 and 12 relate to Mr Shamoon, who spent "unimaginable sums at the casino in London" — £39 million in nine years. Mr Alcock shielded Mr Shamoon from revenue inquiries, said Mr Black, in return for a holiday in Marbella with Miss Corrigan.

Count 13 relates to Mr Alcock and Ara Oztemel, a very

wealthy man now living in the United States. In early 1992 the Inland Revenue began to probe his affairs, only to find that Mr Alcock had already done so.

Mr Alcock had allegedly accepted "the most luxurious holiday of all" from Mr Oztemel; he and his family flew to New York with first class tickets, cruised to Bermuda and accepted accommodation in one of New York's best hotels, before taking Concord home.

"It cost in excess of £22,000 — about half his salary," said Mr Black. The case continues on Monday.

Receiver becomes greyhounds' pedigree chum

Dan Atkinson

THE Official Receiver yesterday found himself in charge of one of the most unusual assets to have been unearthed from a failed company — a pack of greyhounds.

Michael Pugh, an Official Receiver for London, is now responsible for racing dogs such as Saddlers Return and High Knight and will also be dealing with their trainers. His deputy, David Chapman, is thought to be doing his best to master details of the dog world in his boss's absence.

The greyhounds are the main — possibly the only —

asset of Anderson Churchill, an investment company in Clerkenwell, London. Anderson, involved in greyhound syndicates, took £500,000 off about 500 investors.

Earlier in the year, the Securities and Investments Board — the chief City supervisor — decided the dogs amounted to an unauthorised investment scheme. It was granted injunctions banning further activity by Anderson and freezing its assets.

This second injunction, the fearsome Mareva order used against Asil Nadir, effectively froze the dogs and the board had to unfreeze them every time their trainers — also

creditors of Anderson — wished to race them. No doubt tiring of all this, the board handed the case to the Trade Secretary, Ian Lang, ultimate boss of the Insolvency Service, on Wednesday.

The dogs have been unserved and their new owner, the Official Receiver, made "provisional liquidator". Animal lovers can relax — the liquidation will be financial. Not since the Official Receiver for Tyneside found himself, in 1991, with an office full of wedding dresses (from an insolvent dressmaker) and a dozen sobbing brides has the service taken charge of such peculiar assets.

CJD fears raised by new cases

Alan Watkins and Owen Bowcott

AT LEAST four further suspected cases of the new variant of Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease are being monitored by government research scientists, it was disclosed yesterday.

Fears that the increase could foreshadow a sharp rise in the incidence of the disease — of which 14 cases have been confirmed already — came as it was disclosed that the relatives of one victim have been granted legal aid to sue the Government.

Most of the applications from solicitors representing victims' families have been rejected. In one case, however, the Legal Aid Board has issued a certificate for preliminary legal investigations.

The funding will allow lawyers to explore the possibility of suing for negligence over the way in which the authorities handled the BSE epidemic in cattle and the related disease — known as nvCJD — in humans.

With clinical knowledge of the symptoms of nvCJD restricted to relatively few specialists, there is controversy over the diagnosis of new cases. Confirmation can be made only after death or by biopsy of brain tissue taken from a living sufferer. Of the 14 confirmed cases, two are still alive. One recent case involved a 16-year-old London girl of Turkish-Cypriot origins. Another is a 51-year-old man from near Birmingham who died several weeks ago.

Dr James Ironside, the neuropathologist in charge of the Government's CJD surveillance laboratory in Edinburgh, yesterday said his unit

was monitoring a handful of suspected cases. "It's a small number, less than five, but it is difficult to assess these further cases," he said.

"The next year or two will be critical. If the disease has a long incubation period you could be looking at thousands of cases."

A policy of secrecy appears to have been adopted by the Department of Health concerning the ages of potential victims.

Among suspected cases known to either the CJD surveillance unit or victims' support groups are understood to be a 15-year-old girl from Glasgow, two women between 20 and 30, a woman in her late 30s and a man aged 35. His condition is said to be deteriorating rapidly. He appears to be a classic case of the new variant with the onset of the disease being signalled by psychiatric disturbance and profound mood and personality changes.

There are other potential but unconfirmed victims. A woman who recently gave birth has complained of symptoms which indicate the possibility of CJD but tests have so far proved inconclusive. There is also mystery surrounding a woman of 43 who died recently in the London area.

The Agriculture Secretary, Douglas Hoag, yesterday defended his department's handling of the affair and disclosed that he had taken legal advice. "Anyone suing us would have to show we were culpable and prove negligence in this matter. We can show what we did at the time was reasonable."

Rescue plan for farmers, page 4

VAT man faces £200m payback

Mark Milner and Julie Wolf

THE Government could be forced to repay up to £200 million after losing the latest battle over Value Added Tax, when the European Court of Justice ruled that Customs & Excise was wrong to charge it on the full price of goods sold at a discount.

Though the two companies at the centre of yesterday's judgment, Argos and the Unilever subsidiary Elida Gibbs, were only claiming £24 million, the ruling will open the way to a flood of claims.

The Treasury said: "At the most extreme, the loss would be no more than £150 million to £200 million in back tax." It added: "Back tax will only be payable if traders can substantiate claims going back 23 years."

Revenue sources indicated that the bill will fall to £70 million if Parliament approves a three-year limit on the period for which VAT can be reclaimed.

Argos claimed it was due a refund of £1.36 million for VAT paid between 1983 and 1988. Elida Gibbs was claiming a refund of £883,894.

Several other large VAT cases are making their way through the legal system. The Revenue is challenging an appeal court ruling handed down in April that it was

wrong in its VAT treatment of interest-free credit deals. Counsel for the Revenue said during the hearing that the decision may mean billions of pounds having to be repaid, though Customs & Excise says the figure will be much smaller.

Potentially the most expensive of the legal challenges is the battle over the imposition of VAT on company cars, with some estimates putting repayments at tens of billions a suggestion dismissed by the tax authorities. The case is due to be heard by the House of Lords.

Most estimates of the Government's potential liabilities involve the repayment of VAT since the tax was introduced, a period of 23 years. However, a spokesman for Customs & Excise pointed out yesterday that the next finance bill would include a provision to limit the period for which VAT could be claimed to three years. The legislation is certain to be challenged in the courts.

Yesterday's defeat for Customs & Excise is the third big VAT setback in recent years. It was forced to repay £20 million worth of VAT wrongly charged on the medical components in spectacles and £120 million of VAT on membership fees to voluntary sporting bodies.

Notebook, page 11

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Hogg says that Whitehall team will devise contingency scheme for retraining worst-hit victims to grow crops or move to other work

Crisis plan to get farmers out of beef

Wide-ranging restructuring 'is inevitable'

Paul Brown, Owen Bowcott and Stephen Bates

FARMERS hit by the beef crisis may be retrained to grow crops or move into different jobs under contingency plans being prepared by the Government, Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, said yesterday.

Grassland farmers, especially in the West Country and the Welsh and Scottish borders, are heavily dependent on income from beef cattle. Mr Hogg said a far-reaching restructuring of the industry to cope with BSE was inevitable.

Subsidies being paid to farmers were to ease them through the crisis, but a new beef industry based on natural farming methods, with animals traceable from birth to the table, was essential.

Just how much smaller the industry would be had still to be assessed, but it had been acknowledged in Brussels that there would have to be a substantial change.

Tim Boswell, junior agriculture minister, said the contingency planning team, including Department of Social Security officials, would assess the effect of the crisis on employment and the need for retraining.

Welfare arrangements for communities that had lost much of their long-term revenue were being considered.

Mr Hogg rejected demands by the European Commission

and the farming industry for a further selective cull of herds which have suffered BSE outbreaks. He said scientific evidence indicated that this would not eradicate the disease any faster.

But reacting to a new study showing the link between BSE and the new human variant of CJD to be a virtual certainty, the commission said the Government should abide by the agreement reached at the Florence EU summit in June to cull up to 130,000 additional cattle from known BSE-infected herds.

Commission officials maintained that the new findings proved the EU had been right to placate nervous consumers by imposing an export ban on British beef last March.

They warned that any hope of getting the ban lifted depended on Britain's agreeing to a more extensive cull to eradicate the disease more quickly.

Franz Fischer, the Agriculture Commissioner, told a meeting in Paris: "What the British scientists have discovered shows how serious the crisis is."

Sir David Nash, president of the National Farmers Union, continued to lash out at Mr Hogg over his handling of the crisis.

He said he "remained angered at the extent of the mismanagement and stupid delays by the Government during this whole catastrophic affair. Farmers and their families had suffered personally because of this



Head on the block... As new research confirms link between BSE and new form of CJD in humans, pressure from Brussels grows for UK to extend its cattle cull PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCFEE

dreadful scourge." He referred particularly to the problem of hill farmers and called for further subsidies to prevent hardship.

Mr Hogg said the Government had allocated another £16.6 million to speed up the

slaughter scheme, which has left farmers with around 400,000 unwanted cattle to feed at the start of winter. Shortage of rendering capacity has meant that only 25,000 carcasses can be processed a week.

The extra money would pay for surplus carcasses to be kept in cold storage until they could be rendered down. Mr Hogg said 45,000 animals had been killed last week, and he hoped a further 55,000 would be destroyed next week.

Refrigerator ships have been among the storage suggestions, and yesterday officials said there was a possibility of mooring two in Belfast Loch.

One of the main complaints of farmers is that some have

been waiting since the crisis broke on March 20 for abattoir space to get rid of their cattle. To avoid the "skulduggery" of queue jumping at markets and abattoirs, the government has introduced a registration scheme. Farmers

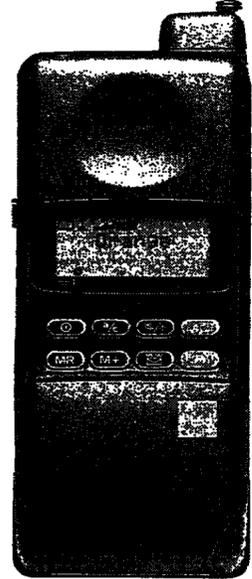
have until November 2 to register and get in the queue. As many as 125 new cases of BSE among cattle are still being diagnosed every week. At the height of the outbreak in 1992 it reached an average of 705.

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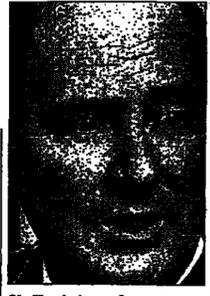


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Drunken sailor at 33,000ft

David Sharrock on a mid-air drama that provided RUC chief's last case



Sir Hugh Annesley took high-level action

IT WAS the final crisis of his police career — in the most unexpected of places. Sir Hugh Annesley, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, had to step in and subdue a drunken passenger who was trying to open an aircraft cabin door 33,000ft above the Irish Sea.

Seaman John Ireland hung his head in shame yesterday as he stood in the dock of Belfast magistrates' court and listened to an account of how Sir Hugh, who left his post as chief of Northern Ireland's police force last week, attempted to restore order on Jersey European flight GY970.

Mr Ireland, of Belfast, was terrified of flying, the court heard. To calm his pre-flight nerves on October 2, he sought solace in a litre bottle of Jack Daniels bourbon.

By the time the shuttle flight was airborne, Mr Ireland was "very drunk", according to Inspector John Anderson, prosecuting.

"He was shouting and threatening other passengers.

As the plane came in to land, Ireland refused to fasten his seat belt. Instead he stood up and remained standing while the plane landed.

At the airport, junior police officers were waiting to complete Sir Hugh's arrest. Mr Ireland punched one of them and assaulted a security guard.

After being charged Mr Ire-

land said: "I am really terribly sorry for my conduct," adding that because of the Jack Daniels he could not even remember being on the plane.

Denis Maloney, defending, said that Mr Ireland had since written to the captain and crew, apologising for his conduct. "I have conveyed his personal regret to the Chief Constable," he assured the court.

Outlining Mr Ireland's fear of flying, the solicitor said: "He now realises the dreadful consequences which could have followed his actions.

"This is not some brash, loud thug. This is somebody who made a mistake. The drink was in and the wit was out."

Magistrate Mervyn Bates said: "Here was a man who, under the influence of drink, refused to obey the command of the captain, cabin staff and even the RUC Chief Constable." He fined Mr Ireland £600 with a three-month jail sentence, suspended for two years.

"He won't do it again," promised Mr Ireland's solicitor. Neither will Sir Hugh, whose days of regular commuting between his home in England and Northern Ireland are at an end. But maybe it wasn't such a bad end to a chief constable's career.

Police hunt for lorry driver who dumped hitch girl, 10

NICK Varley

POLICE were last night hunting a lorry driver who picked up a 10-year-old girl hitchhiker and drove her 200 miles before dumping her at a motorway service station.

Holly Naughton, of Doncaster, told a school friend she was planning to go to Blackpool after an incident at school.

But she fell asleep soon after climbing into the cab on the A1(M) near her home on Wednesday evening.

When she awoke yesterday morning and told the driver, a carpet dealer, that she was running away from home, he pulled into services on the M5 in Somerset.

He called her parents and told them of the whereabouts

of their daughter, whom it was feared had been abducted after being spotted getting into the lorry.

A motorist, who had heard of the huge police hunt, recognised her and alerted officers.

Inspector Nick Whitehouse of South Yorkshire police said inquiries were continuing into why she was picked up and driven so far.

"We would like to speak to the lorry driver to establish whether this was a journey that was undertaken naively."

"Any motorist picking up a 10-year-old girl to keep her away from the danger of a motorway would normally take her to the nearest police station or alert police."

Holly's mother and a police officer were due to pick her up from Somerset police last night.

Prostitutes beat BT crackdown

PROSTITUTES are receiving help to get round British Telecom's crackdown on their telephone box advertising from an unexpected quarter — British Telecom, writes Stuart Miller.

The company planned to cut off any telephone numbers found printed on cards. But an embarrassed BT yesterday admitted that prostitutes were now selling their services using personalised 07000 numbers.

These divert calls to any phone the subscriber wants, but the owner of the number cannot be traced by BT, because of data protection rules.

Those wishing to take up the service simply contact BT's information line and an operator will put them in touch with a company supplying the 07000 numbers.

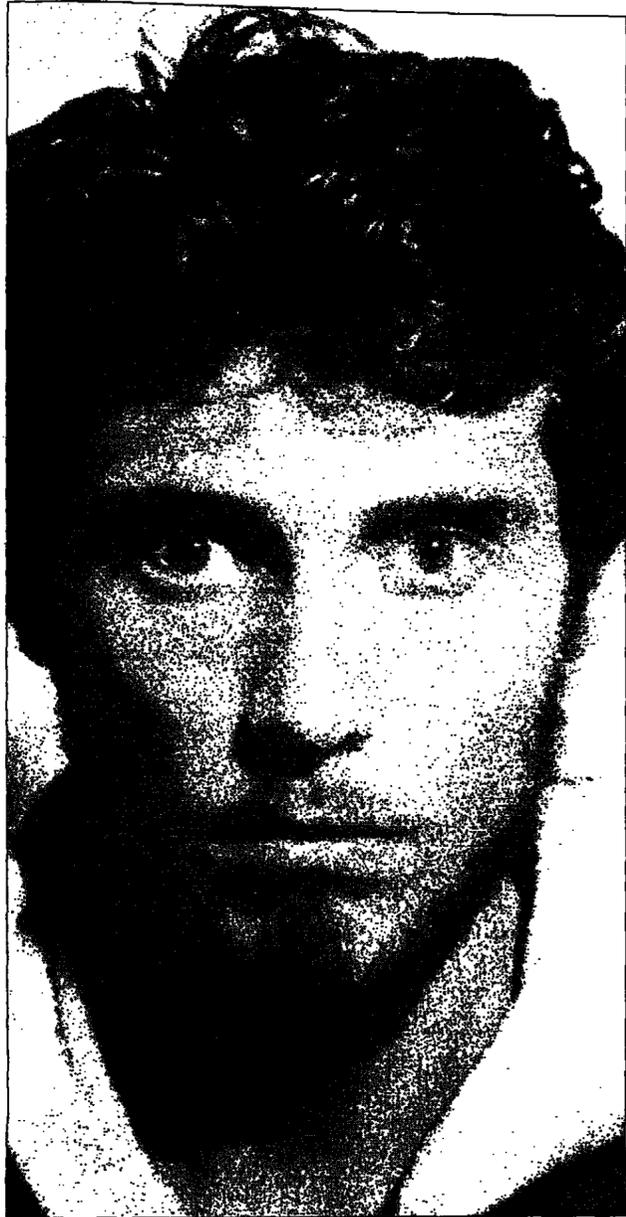
Simpson (who used to do the typing while Galton stared blankly or rolled on the floor seeking inspiration) has given up writing. Now he's president of Hampton Court football club — a role he plays with Ron Atkinson-like gusto. Stuart Jeffries meets the creators of Hancock

Friday Review page 6

Handwritten scribble at the bottom of the page.

Martin Wainwright on care-in-the-community deaths

Anger at inquiry into sick killer



Schizophrenic Anthony Smith... He was discharged from hospital and sent home, despite his father's warning that he was 'a ticking timebomb'

AFATHER is considering legal action following the exoneration of medical staff by an official inquiry into the care-in-the-community treatment of a schizophrenic who murdered his mother and young stepbrother in a frenzied attack with a knife and spiked baseball bat.

The charity Sane and relatives of Anthony Smith, aged 25, who was committed to Rampton secure hospital after the killings in August last year, condemned the inquiry's view that no individuals were to blame in spite of "failures and weaknesses" in medical supervision.

The killings came four weeks after Smith was discharged from Derby City general hospital and sent home in spite of the alarm of his family. His father Peter, an accountant from Sandiacre, Derbyshire, who had warned that Anthony was "a ticking timebomb", yesterday described the conclusion as "disgusting".

He is considering legal action over alleged failure of care, possibly in tandem with lawyers acting for his son, who is to see a solicitor at Rampton next week. Marjorie Wallace, chief executive of Sane, said: "I am truly shocked. All the warning signs were there and they were ignored."

"Anthony Smith should have been sectioned under the Mental Health Act and given six months to stabilise his condition before being discharged. That he was sent back to his family against their wishes is quite unforgivable."

ally acts of this kind follow a long history of violence, but occasionally, as in this case, they can occur with someone who appears to be doing well, with no clear warning."

The five-strong inquiry team, headed by Sir John Wood, of Sheffield University, described how Smith had appeared "a pleasant and reasonably co-operative young man", but his father had warned doctors that his son kept weapons under his bed and refused to take his prescribed drugs.

He turned on his mother Gwendoline, aged 48, and his 11-year-old stepbrother David on the day that a letter arrived from the health authority confirming an appointment with his consultant a month later.

Sir John said that it had soon become clear that "enough was going wrong" with Smith's care in the community to justify a speedy review of the discharge.

But weak communication and the lack of a clear chain of responsibility at the trust had worked against this, he said.

The report concludes: "The system markedly lacked the ability to react quickly to the warning signs. With hindsight, there are many concerned who would have acted differently and will deeply regret their failure to do so. No serious blame, however, can be attached to any one person."

Smith admitted manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility at Nottingham crown court in March, and was sent to Rampton without limit of time.

Peter Smith, who sat through a press conference to launch the report, said: "They are not prepared to take responsibility. They have glossed over everything and made it sound more like a clerical error than anything else."



Smith's mother, Gwen, and stepbrother, David, both killed in frenzied attacks with knife and spiked baseball bat

'System lacked the ability to react quickly to warning signs. With hindsight, there are many concerned who would have acted differently and will deeply regret their failure to do so. No serious blame, however, can be attached to any one person'

- Inquiry report

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Blazing Islam leaves Koran in ashes

SOME villages are flattened by bombs. Others are shelled and rocketed to destruction. Neither fate is as shocking as death by fire. The killers move among the terrified people, torching and burning in full view of their victims.

"Everything is gone," screamed Narwar, a middle-aged woman as her teenage daughter stood blankly behind her. "My grain is burning. My house is burning. My life is burning. Please, please tell them not to attack civilian areas."

The smell of charred wood hung in the air. Several doors in the tall mud-brick walls along the winding village street showed signs of having been kicked in. Within the once intimate family compounds blackened roofbeams lay in dust and rubble.

The fighting north of Kabul

since the Taliban seized the Afghan capital last month has killed and wounded scores of civilians. Bombs dropped from a Taliban plane left 20 people, mostly children, dead in the town of Kalakan yesterday. But no atrocity has been as cold-blooded as the collective punishment which the ultra-fundamentalist Taliban militias inflicted on the hamlet of Sarchesma.

Only four of its 120 homes are unscathed. Half a dozen lorries piled high with the remains of people's livelihood lurched along the dirt road in the opposite direction as we drove in. Women and children perched on top, men hung from the sides.

The burning released a huge cloud of smoke which drifted along the Taliban and opposition alliance front lines on Tuesday.

It was only yesterday, in a brief lull in the fighting, that

JONATHAN STEELE meets the villagers of Sarchesma, burnt out by angry Taliban

As people slowly calmed down, the story began to emerge.

The Taliban entered the village at the weekend, summoned everyone to the central square, and ordered them to hand in their weapons.

IN ALMOST every rural Afghan home a gun is treated as an heirloom and a necessity. "People said it was dangerous to give up their weapons," Khairuddin said. "The Taliban said: 'Don't worry. We are your security. We are your bodyguards'."

When the guns were handed over, the Taliban

warned the villagers to report any sign of Ahmed Shah Massoud's forces trying to infiltrate Sarchesma. The villagers are Tajiks, and it was highly likely that Commander Massoud, the main Tajik leader and defence minister in the ousted government, would try to move in. In recent days his forces have been spreading through the towns and villages west of the main road north from Kabul.

The Taliban returned to their base on a hill outside Sarchesma. Early next morning the villagers woke to find Massoud people had sneaked in during the night. They

shelter of the village. The Taliban responded with the rocket attack which killed Khairuddin's family. After a day of intermittent exchanges the Massoud forces withdrew.

RETIBUTION soon followed. Between 20 and 30 Taliban entered the village next morning. Systematically they poured petrol on the houses and set them ablaze. Nizamuddin, a middle-aged farmer, showed the pile of scorched and blackened grain in his storehouse. Recently harvested, it represented a large part of his income for the year.

"Who's to blame for this?" we asked. There was a long silence before a woman said: "We're poor. How can we know?"

"If we say, the Taliban will kill us," Nizamuddin chipped in. "Are these good Mus-

lims?" he said sarcastically. "They are the best Muslims in the world, and they burn our homes."

A younger neighbour, Naimuddin, produced a metal bowl containing a pile of ash. "This is the Koran," he exclaimed, his voice rising with outrage. One could just make out the edges of charred pages.

"Tyrrants, tyrants," he shouted, making it clear he meant the Taliban with their much-vaunted belief in the strictest possible interpretation of Islamic sharia law.

"This is the book of God. Why are you doing this? You can kill us, but don't burn our book. We pay honour to the ashes of the Koran. The Koran is the book of God."

Sajida, a 40-year-old widow, guided us into the compound of her home. It was the familiar scene of charred beams, ruined grain, and mounds of

rubble. "I escaped from fighting in Kabul four years ago. Unfortunately, this fighting follows me everywhere," she wailed.

Sajida said she had no relatives in Kabul to go to. For the past two nights the women of the village slept on the carpeted floor of the mosque. It was one of the few buildings the Taliban spared. Sajida said she was planning to spend a third night there.

Close by several houses appeared to have been destroyed at a much earlier date. The tops of the smashed walls were rounded by years of rain and snow. Nizamuddin said Sarchesma had been a mujahedin stronghold during the Soviet occupation and was repeatedly bombed and rocketed by the Russians.

"You know, we killed more than 40 Russian soldiers here but they never ever burned our village down."

News in brief

Saudis question bomb suspects

SAUDI ARABIA has arrested 11 people in connection with the explosion which killed 19 Americans in United States military quarters in Damman in June, according to the Beirut daily al-Bayrak, which is close to Saudi official circles.

It said the Saudi authorities had "dismantled a sabotage network and arrested the saboteurs who planned or carried out the blast", adding that the detainees were being "interrogated minutely and in utmost secrecy".

The interior minister, Prince Nayef bin Abdul-Aziz, was awaiting the outcome of the investigation to name "the instigators, their plans, the executors, parties that financed them from abroad, and the country that hosted their meetings," the paper added.

It said the 11 were linked to "elements" involved in the explosion at the national guard headquarters in the Saudi capital Riyadh last November in which seven people, five of them American, died. Four Saudis who confessed to that explosion have been executed. — *Reuters, Beirut.*

High-seas cocaine coup

AN INTERNATIONAL drugs squad has claimed the biggest high-seas cocaine seizure on record. Colonel Leonardo Gallego, chief of the Colombian anti-drugs police, said Colombian, Ecuadorian and United States agents found at least 7 tonnes of cocaine on a fishing boat bound for the Mexican port of Manzanillo. At least 4.5 tonnes and possibly 7 tonnes remained concealed, he believed.

He said the shipment probably belonged to a new gang of traffickers formed by survivors of the largely dismantled Medellín and Cali cartels. — *Reuters, Bogotá.*

Chirac pleads for Iraq

PRESIDENT Jacques Chirac of France appealed to the United Nations yesterday to make good the agreement to let Iraq sell limited amounts of oil to buy food and medicine. He told the Jordanian parliament: "France is alarmed at the humanitarian situation in Iraq, and calls solemnly on the international community to apply at long last Resolution 986." — *Reuters, Amman.*

Grounds for complaint



SPANISH undertakers clog central Madrid with hearse to press for the liberalisation of their business, hampered, they say, by local monopolies breaching the constitutional guarantee of "free circulation of people and goods through the national territory". — *Photograph: PAUL WHITE*

French guide to sex on TV

FRANCE'S main television channels have agreed to introduce on-screen symbols indicating the sex and violence content of films, documentaries and series. From November 18, a green circle will suggest that parental consent is advisable, an orange triangle will warn that the programme could upset young viewers, and a red square will mark "works of an erotic character or with a great deal of violence".

The agreement was promoted by the French broadcasting watchdog, the Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel, whose spokeswoman said: "Cutting films is an anathema in France. Even private channels are only allowed one advertising break during a feature film. This measure protects film-makers from censorship by the channels and provides parents with an at-a-glance appraisal."

A Socialist deputy, Ségolène Royal, said: "Not only does the system legitimise violent films, it publicises them." — *Alex Dumas Smith, Paris.*

Poles approve abortion bill

THE Polish lower house of parliament voted yesterday to overturn a senate veto and reinstate the bill it passed in August to liberalise the abortion laws, allowing pregnancies to be ended before the 12th week, but only after counselling and a period of reflection. — *Reuters, Warsaw.*

With the uproar came the accusation that the film I was making was actually about the present day. With that, the real trouble began.

Neil Jordan on Michael Collins

Friday Review page 2



A villager shows the bloodstained veil and plastic shoes worn by his daughter when she and his three grandsons were killed by a Taliban rocket. PHOTOGRAPH: ALAN CHINN

Zaireans and Hutus flee as Tutsi fighters close in

Chris McGreal in Kigali

TUTSI fighters were bearing down on the panic-stricken city of Bukavu in eastern Zaire last night as government troops continued to flee from a powerful week-long offensive.

The rapid advance of the Banyamulenge — Tutsis who have lived in the area for generations — raised the spectre of conflict consuming the whole of eastern Zaire as Eishasa threw in more troops and again accused Rwanda of invading.

Hundreds of thousands of Hutu refugees from Rwanda and Burundi were moving from their camps before the Banyamulenge advance. The exodus was swelled by Zairean civilians.

The United Nations — which is preparing to evacuate staff — warned of a vast humanitarian crisis, saying there is only sufficient food to last three days for those refugees who remain in camps. Delivery routes were cut off.

Banyamulenge fighters have taken at least three towns in recent days and were reported to have moved to within 10 miles of Bukavu, the capital of South Kivu province.

Zaire's army, which has put up little effective resistance, said it was bringing in heavy weapons to defend the city. Planeloads of troops have arrived.

"People are as terrified of what the army might do before it retreats as they are of the Banyamulenge. Most of us expect a looting and killing spree by the army," an aid worker said.

Zaire claimed to have captured Rwandan soldiers, saying it was evidence that Rwanda had invaded in support of the Banyamulenge. Refugees and Zairean troops fleeing

into Bukavu also claimed to have seen large numbers of Rwandan troops.

The president, Mobutu Sese Seko, convalescing in Switzerland after surgery for prostate cancer, called on Zaireans to defend their country, but his slackening

'People are as terrified of the army as they are of the Banyamulenge'

grip on power appears to have contributed to the crisis. Switzerland extended his visa yesterday, which suggests that he is more seriously ill than is being admitted.

Rwanda denies that its troops have crossed the border, saying Zaire is trying to distract world attention from the persecution of the Banyamulenge by Rwandan Hutu refugees and the Zairean authorities.

But Claude Dusaidi, political advisor to General Paul Kagame, Rwanda's vice-president and the head of its army, said the government sympathised with the Banyamulenge cause.

He believed they would seize Bukavu and carve out a safe area in the east as a prelude to demanding negotiations with the government.

"But when you start a war you never know where it will end. If the government doesn't want to talk, the sky's the limit. Maybe they'll reach Kinshasa."

Asked to explain the success of Banyamulenge fighters if they were not receiving external help, Mr Dusaidi cited the poor quality of the Zairean troops.

A Banyamulenge spokesman claimed that the fight was backed by a series of rebel groups seeking auton-

omy for other parts of Zaire.

The United States, Belgium and France have launched initiatives to contain the fighting. Belgium is acting as an intermediary between Zaire and its neighbours. France has revived its proposals for a regional conference. Mr Dusaidi is dismissive.

"The French want a regional conference. To do what? The problem is in Zaire. They should ask Zaire why it kills its own citizens. The French want to obfuscate things and direct attention from the real issues because their interests might be threatened," he said.

Fighting has spilled back into Burundi. Three Hutu rebels were killed in the border province of Cibitoke, where the governor was assassinated on Tuesday.

Shyam Bhatia in Amman

THREE Jordanians who stockpiled stolen army landmines and allegedly planned to blow up Israeli tourists have been arrested by King Hussein's security services. Twenty-five mines had been dug from a minefield near the Israeli border and buried in a village garden north of Amman.

The plot was uncovered by chance last week when the men put the mines into plastic bags and asked a taxi driver to take them to the crusader fortress of Ajlun, a popular destination for Israeli tourists. Another passenger, who was a serving army officer, alerted a police patrol.

When the taxi was stopped, police discovered 11 anti-tank and 14 anti-personnel mines. An explosives expert detonated seven of the mines,

which the would-be assassins had tried to prise open.

Security officials in Amman said Ibrahim Mahmoud, aged 28, Ali Mohammed, aged 26, and Abdel Rahim Ahmed, aged 27, were allegedly helped by an army lieutenant who had told them where the mines were planted, and had instructed them on how to dig them out safely.

Some of the mines were then buried in Mr Mahmoud's garden. Others were stockpiled in a nearby cave.

Relatives have described the three men, from the village of Hashimiya, as childhood friends and Islamic ideologues opposed to King Hussein's peace treaty with Israel. "They are not members of any political group," Mr Mahmoud's father told police. "They consider themselves good Muslims and good citizens. Perhaps they believed that peace with Israel

would improve their lives, but two years after the peace treaty all they face is more poverty and unemployment."

Their frustration is shared by an increasing number of Jordanians. The king recently warned a visiting Israeli politician that the majority of Jordanians were now openly questioning the wisdom of befriending Israel.

Since the election of Binayamin Netanyahu as prime minister, in May, Jordanian-Israeli relations have deteriorated to a point where the king avoids meeting visiting Israeli officials. Mr Netanyahu's chief foreign policy adviser, Dov Ezer Gold, has been waiting several weeks for an appointment. Israel's ambassador in Amman, Shimon Shamir, increasingly finds himself isolated and enveloped by a hostile atmosphere.

Leader comment, page 8

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Vatican for another summit

Paris home and a new

Scythian prince tomb unearthed

Handwritten scribble at the bottom of the page.

Vatican poised for another UN summit row

John Hooper in Rome

ROMAN Catholic anti-abortionists are exploiting the run-up to next month's World Food Summit to try and reverse decisions reached at the United Nations' Cairo and Beijing conferences on population and women, the International Planned Parenthood Federation said yesterday.

The IPPF said its claim as the Vatican publicly aligned itself with the Third World on a range of issues expected to figure prominently at the summit.

Due to be held in Rome from November 13 to 17, the summit is the latest in a series of high-profile gatherings organised by UN agencies to draw attention to global problems and reach broad agreement on how they should be tackled.

Ms Wilson, a friend of the former US ambassador to the United States, played an influential role in Washington's adoption in 1984 of the so-called Mexico City policy. This denied funds to international organisations seen as promoting abortion.

The IPPF said yesterday that there still no agreement on a paragraph in the Rome summit's draft Plan of Action which urged governments to devise "appropriate

population policies, programmes and family planning services to allow for responsible parenthood", as agreed in Cairo. The federation's secretary-general, Inger Bruggemann, said a "consensus on reproductive freedom and rights has been assailed by those who wish to keep women in the dark ages".

The link between hunger and population is one of several controversial issues to be debated next week when the final preparatory session is held to agree on the wording of the conference document. Several rich countries, led by the US, have objected to the phrase "right to food".

Yet the opening words of a document released by the Vatican yesterday unequivocally stated that the "right to food" was a fundamental principle.

Paris homeless find a new hero

Alex Daval Smith in Paris

THE misery is different but the mission the same. In March 1993, General Philippe Morillon mounted an armoured personal carrier and told the people of Srebrenica: "You are under my protection."

Now, France's greatest military hero since De Gaulle has thrown in his lot with the homeless of Paris.

But as he sits in the tranquil autumnal garden behind his office, a few doors up from the Rodin museum, the now-retired general knows the odds are stacked against him even more than they were in the besieged Muslim enclave.

In Srebrenica, which he temporarily saved by promising to stay, Gen Morillon defied the bureaucratic inertia of the United Nations. To ordinary people he was Beau Geste. Lady Thatcher said he "gave us a spark of leadership and courage". Alain Juppé, then foreign minister, called him "General Courage".

In Paris, they have stopped counting the cardboard boxes with people inside. Gen Morillon, who is 61 today wants to draw attention to them.

He said: "I want to be among them — to be the person who listens and advises, not just a figurehead." Every Tuesday he has lunch in a soup kitchen near the Louvre.

A devout Roman Catholic, he is backing the plans of a priest he has known for 30 years to open a college in central Paris where a dozen young people will spend a year studying the Scriptures and providing practical assistance to the homeless.

Gen Morillon said: "There is a crisis of faith which is a crisis of intelligence. Young people are incapable of answering the basic ques-

tions. Like why, if there is a God, is there war, or misery. "The world is changing and Christians have a role, not a proselytising one, but one built around the idea that mankind exists to love and to be loved."

Recently widowed with three grown-up daughters, he says army life — from Algeria to Germany and Bosnia — has taught him a hard lesson about love.

"It is much easier to feel a disproportionate amount of love for Eskimos or baby seals than it is to love your neighbour. I have seen men can be as easily be solidarity around evil as around good."

Homelessness and spiritual renewal are unfashionable causes, but Gen Morillon has made a career of them.

Born in Morocco, he trained at Saint-Cyr military academy and was sent to Algeria.

As a lieutenant in the armoured cavalry, he sided with the rebels who opposed De Gaulle's willingness to grant independence to the colony. A low-ranking officer, he escaped official censure but spent several years in desk jobs.

The generals probably thought the Bosnian quagmire would be too much even for him when they named him commander of the UN protection force in 1992.

Scythian prince's secret tomb unearthed near Kiev

Jane Parlez in Kiev

ASPECTACULAR Scythian tomb, housing the remains of a prince and his gold and silver possessions, has been unearthed in a field 90 miles from the Ukrainian capital, Kiev.

Archaeologists say the find may change the way historians regard one of the world's most celebrated nomadic cultures.

Lying on his back with his gold-handled sword in his left hand, the prince was in a sealed catacomb that suggests a more settled way of life and death — than the Scythians are known for.

area stretching from the Danube east to the Caucasus.

The find, uncovered in July by Ukrainian and Polish teams of archaeologists, is the most significant Scythian discovery in more than 150 years. One remarkable detail is that the grave includes an oven-like apparatus, indicating that the nomadic Scythians adapted in some ways to the settled habits of the Sarmatians, who lived in the forest steppe where the grave was located.

The discovery is also extraordinary, the archaeologists said, because all artifacts — from an intricate Greek silver cup to the prince's gold neck-collar — were in mint condition and were found just as they had been placed during the burial 2,300 years ago.

Tens of thousands protest across country over collapse of pay talks and plan to cut sickness benefits



Workers protesting at sick-pay reductions make their point with a mock sickbed outside the Thyssen steel mill in Duisburg-Ramborn yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: KARL-HEINZ KREFFELIS

German engineers in lightning strike

Ian Traynor in Weimar

ENGINEERING workers downed tools in lightning strikes across Germany yesterday and marched in protest at the collapse of pay talks and at government-blessed plans to cut sick-pay.

From Bavaria in the south to the Ruhr industrial region in the north-west, tens of thousands of trade unionists flexed their muscles in a one-day protest after three days of negotiations with the engineering employers' federation on 1997 pay levels ended in stalemate.

"The mood is one of rage and disappointment," said a spokeswoman for the engineering union, IG Metall.

Employers branded the stoppage illegal and said the strikers were only hurting themselves as the protests would lead to more job losses at a time of record unemployment in Germany.

last month abolished the long-standing provision of full-wage sick-pay, cutting it to 80 per cent. The move was part of a broader package of cuts aimed at trimming next year's budget deficit to 3 per cent of gross domestic product, the key criterion for joining a single currency.

However, attempts by companies such as Daimler-Benz to cut sick-pay instantly, in breach of existing labour contracts, brought employees on to the streets. In a few days of industrial strife, Daimler lost more money than it would have saved through the cuts and beat a retreat.

Many other flagship firms such as Siemens and Volkswagen have agreed to keep sick-pay at 100 per cent in the interim.

The breakdown of the bargaining round on Wednesday may signal a winter of confrontation in Germany, dovetailing with worker unrest in France and elsewhere in Europe as governments slash budgets in a scramble to pass the single currency test next year.

some key employers in the engineering sector are looking to save face with a formula that would keep the industrial peace while allowing both sides to claim victory.

With Germany's economy generally moving out of stagnation, there are signs that individual companies will do specific deals even if the sectoral bargaining remains deadlocked.

Volkswagen's labour director yesterday called for a compromise that would continue paying out full wages during sick leave.

Yesterday was picked by the engineering union leader, Klaus Zwickel, as a day of action because it recalled one of the most emotive dates in the annals of modern German trade unionism. On the same day in 1956, IG Metall members in the northern state of Schleswig-Holstein embarked on the longest labour dispute in post-war Germany.

Tennessee voters are loyal to personalities rather than parties. Martin Walker reports from Memphis

Sax appeal woos bluesmen

IN B.B. King's blues club on Beale Street, the only sign that an election is under way is a discreet Clinton-Gore bumper sticker under the "Performing Tonight" posters.

It is the kind of place where the whites dress casual and the blacks are impeccable in double-breasted suits and costume jewellery, where the barbecue ribs are as sweet as the music in this city that bred the blues.

The proportions are just right. The stage is bigger than the bar, and the Preston Shannon band is playing mean rockabilly blues that could have come from B.B. King's own guitar — which hangs in a glass case on the wall.

"Heck yes, I'm gonna vote — we always voted in Memphis," says John Williams, taking a cigarette break after playing what he's known for along the Mississippi river — one of the finest bass-guitar solo you're ever likely to hear.

"It's not just because Clinton is a musician," Mr Williams grins, straightening the lapel of his suit. "That ain't it. But I tell you one thing, this is the quietest election I ever did see."

Just down Beale Street, beyond the local cop precinct house that is also a 24-hour police museum, there is a huge green banner that says proclaims: "Elect Silky O'Sullivan to Congress — District 9."

Right alongside is Silky O'Sullivan's bar, with the motto "Every Day is St Patrick's Day."

Inside, the bar is pasted with testimonials to Silky as a world statesman taking Memphis barbecued pork to Moscow in 1990 in his "Pig-O-Stroika" mission, and a huge portrait of Elvis labelled "Another satisfied customer".

Silky has about as much chance of winning the 9th district as Elvis. In a city with one of the highest proportions of blacks in the United States — above 40 per cent — the 9th is the fiefdom of the Ford family.

Harold Ford Jr will not only inherit his father's seat, but could bring out enough of the black vote to ensure that the Clinton-Gore ticket carries Tennessee's 11 electoral college votes.

It would be a profound humiliation for Al Gore if the Democrats falter in his home state, and a setback to his hopes of winning the Democratic succession in 2000.

That explains why the vice-president has been home campaigning in Tennessee 10 and five of the nine House seats.

This time, the one Senate seat being contested is almost certain to be held by Fred Thompson, the folksy and popular 68th Republican lawyer-turned-actor. He leads in the polls by two to one, and his poll lead is helped along by President Clinton's attack

on tobacco as "the delivery system for the addictive drug of nicotine" — in a state where tobacco comes second to cotton as the main crop.

The Democrats have a sporting chance of winning back two of the congressional seats they lost two years ago, but the curious feature of Tennessee politics is the way it is becoming a bell-wether for the way the whole country votes.

Senator Thompson said, "I'd say the state is split evenly among the parties — I was never under the impression that 1994 was a Republican thing in Tennessee."

Politicians here count heavily on their personal vote, which explains why the Republican congressman, Ed Bryant, is running television advertisements that feature his mother explaining what a good congressman her son has become.

"I don't think Fred Thompson has coat-tails, and I don't think Bill Clinton does either," says the state Democratic chairman, Will Cheek, who is telling all his candidates that they have to win on their own rather than counting on Clinton-Gore and the national party ticket to carry them home.

"If more people get out to vote for President Clinton, it will build the turnout of people likely to vote for other Democrats. But you can't count on it. The question will be: will it help enough? You can't poll that sort of thing."

"Tennessee reacts to individuals more than parties," Senator Thompson said. "I'd say the state is split evenly among the parties — I was never under the impression that 1994 was a Republican thing in Tennessee."

Republicans fight for Congress

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

REPUBLICAN strategists have all but written off Bob Dole's chance of winning the presidency and put their money yesterday on keeping control of Congress.

Mr Dole was dealt a fresh blow yesterday when the Texan billionaire Ross Perot rebuffed his plea to drop out of the presidential race and endorse the Republican ticket.

Mr Perot called the request "weird and totally inconsequential", and said he was in the race to stay.

Clearly signalling their pessimism, party leaders are now urging voters to assume that Bill Clinton will be re-elected but deny him a "blank cheque" in the form of a Democratic House and Senate.

They believe this represents their congressional candidates' best argument, even though it assumes Mr Dole's defeat.

Yesterday they produced a leaflet featuring a rogues' gallery of left-leaning politicians who would occupy the key positions in a Democrat Congress. They include Edward Kennedy as chair of the Senate labour committee and Congressman Richard Gephardt as House Speaker.

The leadership has given its official blessing to congressional candidates who want to distance themselves from Bob Dole and deploy the blank cheque argument.

Television ads using the blank cheque image are reported to be in production.

But the congressional contest remains nail-bitingly close. The Democrats need a net gain of just 19 House seats and three in the Senate to retake both chambers.

Detailed polls show both contests are too close to call, and there is the distinct possibility that control will rest on razor-thin majorities.

With 469 different contests, each with its own idiosyncrasies, prediction is perilous. However, the Republicans' newest tactic marks an attempt to turn their presidential candidate's weakness into an advantage, by persuading voters that it is Mr Dole's very failure that requires them to vote Republican at local and state level.

The polls show that one in 10 undecided voters will choose a Republican if they are convinced that Mr Clinton will win.

The plan relies on the American habit of ticket-splitting, which suggests that they actively prefer separate control of the legislature and executive.

"Americans like gridlock," the Republican consultant William McInturff said. "They like Bill Clinton, but they don't want to give him a blank cheque."

The irony of the approach is that it makes Bob Dole a victim of Newt Gingrich for the second time.

Many analysts believe he has lagged in the polls all year because of the public backlash against Mr Gingrich's leadership in Congress. Now he seems likely to be sacrificed so that Mr Gingrich can retain his Speaker's chair.

The Clinton team has kept quiet about its congressional ambitions. The president promotes individual candidates on the stump but never urges the return of a Democrat Congress, its deep unpopularity in 1994 led to that year's Republican landslide.

While alcohol consumption has declined in most countries in the past 20 years, it has risen rapidly in Japan, particularly among women. But the problems associated with heavy drinking are still not fully recognised, despite the emergence of expressions such as "necktie (businessman) alcoholic" and "kitchen (housewife) drinker" to describe new social phenomena.

Masaya Kawada, a doctor specialising in alcohol-related problems, said the failure to remove the alcohol vending machines would make matters worse in future. "Much was promised, but almost nothing has been done. It seems that the alcohol lobby is too strong."

Street fighting in Japan over vending machine booze

Questions are being asked about the 'no questions asked' drink dispensers, Jonathan Watts reports in Tokyo

A CROWD of teenagers at a bar in central Tokyo chants the Japanese mantra "Down-in-one", reaching a crescendo as one of their number gulps down the last drops of her beer.

Japan is the only country in the world where alcohol is sold from vending machines. An estimated 196,000 of them nationwide dispense beer, sake (distilled liquor), whisky and wine. It is also a country with a growing alcohol problem. But despite government calls for the removal of alcohol vending machines, they are as ubiquitous as ever.

Japan has more than one vending machine for every 30 people, the highest ratio in the world. Selling everything from soft drinks to sex aids, they have become an established feature since their introduction in the 1950s.

Their popularity is partly because of their convenience and partly because, it is said, they allow shame-conscious Japanese to purchase goods that they would otherwise feel embarrassed to buy.

However, in recent years the vending machines that sell alcohol have become a growing cause for concern. Recent surveys indicate there are more under age drinkers than ever, half of whom admit their main supply was vending machines.

This has prompted tax and health officials, and some local authorities, to call for alcohol vending machines to be removed from the streets.

The All Japan Liquor Merchants Association agreed to co-operate in December 1994, but since then there has been little progress. Only about 8 per cent of the machines have been phased out, and no deadline has been set for the removal of the rest.

Instead, brewers and vending-machine makers have proposed waiting until a system is developed to enable them to read identity cards and check a buyer's age.

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Turning from the abyss

Mr Netanyahu needs to change course: now

A YEAR AFTER the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, Israel — and the Palestinians — are still counting the cost. The atmosphere swirls with anguish and apprehension, intolerance and fanaticism. The peace process has been knocked off its course: the only question is whether it is going sideways or in reverse. What consensus there was among Jews, among Arabs, and between the two communities, has been sharply reduced; the only question is whether it survives at all. Looking back a year later (Israel observed the anniversary yesterday according to the Jewish calendar — the actual date is November 4), many are asking the hardest question of all: has the assassin actually won?

After Mr Rabin was gunned down, the Israeli people drew together briefly and pledged re-commitment to the peace process. But it was a shaky reconciliation to which the hard-core Likud only assented reluctantly and because it was politically impossible to do otherwise. Even then there were fundamentalists who openly applauded Yigal Amir. A year on, there is far more evidence of discord than of common endeavour in Israeli society. "How quickly the national memory dried up," writes a commentator this week in *Yediot Aharanot*, "how fast the tears evaporated... A year after the assassination of the prime minister, and we have not yet learned to live with each other. We have not learned to talk to each other." A Jewish extremist pours scalding tea on a Knesset member who has gone to talk to a mixed meeting of Jewish and Palestinian women. Right-wingers object to the Song of Peace — which Mr Rabin joined in singing minutes before he was gunned down — being used at a planned memorial meeting. There are a few brave efforts to bridge the gap of comprehension within and between the communities, but no one will admit even a hint of optimism.

Zevulun Hammer, education minister under Binyamin Netanyahu, claimed yesterday that the right-wing was being unfairly blamed: "Bullets don't fly from only right to left." But within Israeli society the hatred and the violence has been one way — and it was often condoned by associates of Mr Netanyahu before Mr Rabin was killed. It is true that the assassination did not create the schism; it only turned the spotlight upon it. It is also true (though it does not help) that the fundamentalist objection to the peace process is based not on anti-Arab prejudice but on profound conviction. This is the essence of the argument over Hebron today. To

the Palestinians (and to Mr Rabin's government which negotiated the Oslo agreement), Hebron was an Arab town with a small Jewish community; to religious Zionism, it was and is the City of the Patriarchs.

An Israeli prime minister can only begin to reconcile such deep divisions in society by leading it forwards, not backwards. Shimon Peres sought to do so after Mr Rabin's death against increasing odds. In February he made his own task harder by consenting to the Israeli assassination in Gaza of the Hamas bomb-maker known as "the engineer". This then triggered the massive bombings against Israeli civilian targets which lost him the election. But it should be remembered that such assassinations have always been a tool of state policy. It was a year ago tomorrow (by our calendar) that the Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shigaqi was gunned down in Malta. Now Israel is bracing itself for reprisals — and West Bank Palestinians suffer further hardship with a new total closure.

Mr Netanyahu says he "sees things differently" from the Oslo agreement, yet he is not a fundamentalist but a pragmatist — with a strong opportunistic streak. The tragedy is that this has so far led him in the wrong direction. It was always going to be hard for Israeli society to face up to the implications of making peace with the Palestinians. For the logic (which Mr Peres accepted privately but could never say in public) does lead towards two separate states. When this is pointed out by outsiders — as President Chirac did this week — it causes enormous resentment. Yet a new, equal and co-operative relationship is the only real solution to Jewish-Arab hostility. Mr Arafat only pays lip service to it; some of his colleagues and many ordinary Palestinians even today would genuinely like to make it work.

Mr Netanyahu and, it must be acknowledged, very large numbers of Israelis, reject a two-state solution altogether. But the last year has demonstrated that he and they have no other alternative except a gradual slide into the abyss (taking Mr Arafat, as he concedes more ground to keep in the negotiating process) with them. Contemplating this abyss could and should lead to second thoughts on entirely practical grounds. A right-wing leader is better placed than a prime minister of the left to change course (it has been done elsewhere). Mr Netanyahu might even find it easier than he expected; it is certainly the only way to bring to an end the endless circle of revenge — and defeat Mr Rabin's assassin.



Letters to the Editor

Children of the dream

AS A young student, I find the whole move to a civic manifesto patronising (Moral crusade gathers pace, October 23). We are not going to get rid of violence or anger by young people by making us adhere to more meaningless values and ideas. We need to ask Frances Lawrence what her agenda really is. What is she really trying to achieve — a more open, pacifist society or one that fits in with her ideology and beliefs? We aren't going to achieve this by her manifesto.

Young people who have never participated in citizenship learning (How the class of '96 switched off at moralistic lectures and double talk, October 23) undermine the importance of involving young people in studying citizenship, not lecturing them about it. Where schools work with their pupils on citizenship the story is very different. For example, last year CSV launched a national award for school pupils taking part in citizenship education — Passport for Life. At one school, a group of pupils met their local football team to discuss problems surrounding football violence, presenting their solutions to school assembly. At another, young people reduced the amount of litter being dropped locally after doing market research among pupils and coming up with solutions to the problem.

Participative citizenship education works where young people identify and implement positive responses to community needs. Sadly, no

teacher-training institution prepares its students to teach citizenship experientially. Elisabeth Hoodless, Executive Director, Community Service Volunteers, 227 Pentonville Road, London N1 9NJ.

THERE is now a danger that young people will finish up as scapegoats for failings in a system that, in some areas, has declined up to 10 per cent of them from formal education and condones the fact that almost 50 per cent have little to show for 10 years' compulsory schooling. Before rushing to quick-fix solutions, politicians should support existing schemes based on quality youth work, such as the Youth Achievement Awards developed by Youth Clubs UK, that can provide real evidence of success. John Bateman, Chief Executive, Youth Clubs UK, 11 St Bride Street, London EC4A 4AS.

WHAT a wonderful opportunity at Halifax for the Government to put its educational philosophy into practice. Poor schools should be closed and good schools allowed to expand. So why not close the (poor) Ridings school and send the pupils to the two (good) nearby, grant-maintained schools so that they can expand? A Osbaldiston, Kinder, Pinkham Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, Worcs DY14 9QF.

Your Majesty, about that speech you were supposed to have given

THE Queen's Speech has disappointed many charities who care for some of Britain's most vulnerable people by one significant omission — the proposals concerning employers' access to police records.

The proposals, set out in green and white papers, were at an advanced stage. Some measure of urgently needed protection from abuse would be given to children and adults, by alerting employers to previous convictions of potential employees.

The proposed legislation was imperfect. It failed to offer the same protection to vulnerable adults as it did to children. My organisation works with many vulnerable adults, people who are both deaf and blind, and often with little or no formal communication. And, appalling as it may seem, potential abusers are attracted to working with such vulnerable adults. We were, however, optimistic about persuading the Home Office minister, David Maclean MP, to make a small change to the proposal to extend protection to vulnerable adults.

By the irony of timing, while the Queen was speaking, the report of a commission into child abuse, chaired by Lord Williams of Mostyn, was released. Even in politics, actions speak louder than words. Many words have been uttered by ministers on protecting vulnerable people from abuse. The realpolitik of the final months of government look like revealing them as rhetoric.

David Barker, Managing Director, Sense, the National Deafblind and Rubella Association, 11-13 Clifton Terrace, London N4 3SR.

AS a solicitor specialising in family law, I am most disappointed that the Queen's Speech contained no proposals to change the law relating to the rights of unmarried cohabitants. This is an area of crucial importance to a huge number of people but the law, at present offering little certainty or security for many of the individuals concerned, is in urgent need of reform. The law in this area is quite frankly a mess.

Norman Lattimer, Boham & Lewis Solicitors, 38 Turmill Street, London EC1M 5QU.

ONE of the reasons given by the Government for changes to its proposed programme of legislation is "lack of parliamentary time". Evidently the Government has determined that Parliament should take the three-and-a-half month recess that is just ending?

Peter Cullen, 29 Lower Stanton St Quintin, Nr Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 6DB.

YOU claim that "one of the better suggestions for reform came, surprisingly, not from Labour, but from John Major" (Gone fishing for votes, October 23), referring to the Prime Minister's June speech on aspects of parliamentary procedure reform. Yet from Labour's front bench, I put forward in 1995 a series of proposals, including the very one regarding a rolling programme of legislation, you attribute to John Major. Jeff Rooker MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

One committee; two Hamiltons

Sir Archie to be the judge of Neil. Surely some mistake?

WHEN Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith did the honourable thing and stepped down from the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee one vaguely expected him to be replaced by Caesar's wife. Instead, he is being replaced by Sir Archie Hamilton. This shows a curious approach to proving to a sceptical country that the House of Commons is serious about the business of self-regulation.

The Standards and Privileges Committee sits, in effect, as a court. It is the practice in most courts that any judge or jurymen who might be considered *parti pris* in a case will disqualify himself. What about Sir Archie? He will be required to sit in judgment on Neil Hamilton. In a radio interview last year he made his feelings about his namesake quite plain. He said he regretted he had resigned, adding: "What we're coming under is a tremendous amount of slur and innuendo being used by partisan members of the media to try and get rid of ministers. And somebody has to stand up and fight this." For good measure, he went on to advocate

"a number of bits of legislation to restrict freedom of the press... it is going to be necessary because we cannot go on having politicians being picked on in this way, nor indeed our institutions undermined." Would any judge in any other court in the land allow someone onto a jury who had made plain his feelings in such a way?

Sir Archie is, in other ways, a strange nominee for the post-Nolan age. He opposed the Nolan reforms forcing MPs to declare their salaries from consultancies and directorships. Despite this opposition, he lodged letters with the House in May which showed that he was being paid by private firms specifically to approach ministers on their behalf about possible government contracts as well as to attempt to influence policy and to book Commons dining rooms for corporate entertainment. They appeared to come close to "paid advocacy," an activity which is truly forbidden. If the Government is truly intent on proving that self-regulation will work, Sir Archie's appointment is a funny way of showing it.

Supping in the lost chance saloon

Reduce drink and driving then watch the feelgood factor

THE GOVERNMENT should swiftly implement yesterday's recommendation from the chief police officers for a fresh squeeze on drinking and driving. They want the present limit of 80mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood (the ceiling above which drink-related accidents start to escalate) to be reduced to 50mg. A pint of beer or two glasses of wine is about 80mg though it varies considerably depending on the strength of the beer and the metabolism of the person involved. The Department of Transport's official policy is that people shouldn't drink at all. But the Government is reluctant to impose lower limits through the law, despite the evidence that earlier constraints helped to reduce the number of

people killed in accidents involving illegal alcohol levels from 1,040 in 1985 to only 580 by 1995. The lower the limit, the more those who persist in drinking and driving will make themselves conspicuous.

There isn't much chance of getting legislation through Parliament during this session because the Government is desperate to avoid anything even remotely controversial. Alas, any proposal to curb drinking and driving is likely to be judged more by whether it will win or lose votes in the election than on whether it will reduce accidents. This is crazy. If reducing road accidents doesn't boost the feelgood factor then nothing deserves to.

Open and shut

GLENDA Jackson says that rail privatisation is turning inquiries (of serious rail accidents) into buck-passing exercises rather than a sober attempt to uncover the truth (Legal moves by victims of rail crash, October 23).

Privatisation has made no such difference. The Health and Safety Executive is fully independent and as such, is free to make up its own mind about the cause of railway incidents, based on the facts. The HSE is currently carrying out its independent investigation into the Watford crash and will publish a special report. I concur with Miss Jackson that it is clearly in the public interest that the HSE findings are made as widely available as possible, and they will be. Those findings relevant to the claims of those who have suffered injury or loss. Again, that is no different to what applied prior to privatisation.

The difference now is that rather than claim against the single RBR Board, third parties may claim against the single claims-handling agency, Railway Claims Limited. Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1F 4DR.

If Tony Newton persists in efforts to exclude the broadcasters from hearings of David Willetts's evidence, he will break the rules of procedure agreed by the House (Conservatives aim to block broadcast of Willetts affair, October 24). As the BBC editor involved in detailed negotiations with his predecessors ahead of the TV experiment, I can say that there was unanimity that a public hearing meant just that. Open to all. Efforts to allow the press in while excluding the broadcasters were firmly squashed. This was enshrined in the report approved by the House.

I am sure that the Supervisor of Broadcasting is making this quite clear to Mr Newton. Mike Broadbent, 1 Whitehill Avenue, Luton, Beds.



A word for the moneylenders

HUGO YOUNG (Commentary, October 22) says that "A rich Christian country could not tolerate the giving of less than 0.5 per cent of national income to the poor of the Third World". This implicitly criticising Britain. Yet we are not a Christian country; we are a post-Christian country whose morality and value systems have been affected by a Judeo-Christian heritage.

Even if we were a Christian country we would not necessarily delegate our charitable giving to the state. We might believe that Third World aid was a tax on the poor of the first world to benefit the rich of the Third World. I believe Christ preached individual salvation through faith and good works not a collectivist salvation via the Inland Revenue and the Foreign Office. Gerald Hartup, Director, The Freedom Association, 35 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB.

IT is not relevant how Christian a policy or politician is or appears to be. The fact that Enoch Powell, Ian Paisley, Myra Hindley and Tony Blair all claim Christian belief is not a matter of universal reassurance. Let's leave Christianity to those who choose it for themselves, and not take it as a measure of good morals or good politics. John Webster, Manchester.

HUGO YOUNG's assertion about aid-giving and a rich Christian country is right — but are we really to believe that this defines the

full extent to which Britain and other Western nations violate Christian values?

The recent activities of BP in Colombia, of Shell in Nigeria, and of British Agribusiness in Indonesia, are only the latest examples of the long-standing British and US determination to prevent local people interfering with (or, God forbid, controlling) local resources and so threatening profits and power. Our real moral failure is not doing too little but doing far too much. David Edwards, 41 Sutton Road, Charminster, Bournemouth BH9 1RW.

Final thoughts

PHILIP Hensher claims in his article on cycling (Society, October 23): "You're not likely to be seriously endangered by anybody on two wheels." Really? After several months in-line skating to work, I've had several near misses with cyclists who blithely ignore traffic lights. Conversely I've met nothing but courtesy from motorists. Joanna Peggum, 6/32 Lower Sloane Street, London SW1W 8BP.

I AM quite sure that K P Byfield's life (Letters, October 23), despite his age, is of equal value to that of Harold Pinter. More to the point, I am sure that Harold Pinter would agree, though he might regret that Mr Byfield had failed to understand a major aspect of his writings. Colin Boatman, 84 Archway Road, London N19 3TT.

Sentencing the victim

WRITE about the case of the two women jailed for refusing to give evidence against an alleged attacker (Contempt for the truth, October 24).

I was attacked in November 1995 in my own drive. I have just been told the first court hearing has been cancelled. In the interim, I have attended an identification parade at which I was told this was my chance to "get my own back", and received information about the alleged criminal which was not reassuring: received a very impersonal letter telling me I would be needed as a witness "some time in the future"; had to in-

form a clerk of the court of my availability over the next six months in case there is a trial; and received 10 days' notice of a trial which was subsequently cancelled.

In the past 12 months, I have had recurrent thoughts about recommitment if I give evidence; changing my appearance at court so I couldn't be traced afterwards; not giving evidence. I am 6ft 4in tall, male and severely traumatised by the attack and the subsequent handling of the affair. It is not surprising that these women came to the decision they did. Name and address supplied.

A Country Diary

ROSELAND, CORNWALL: A flight of 14 cormorants flew in line-ahead formation, low across the waters of Gerrans Bay. They are creatures of an almost prehistoric design and, when alighting with their wings hung out to dry, seem like the birds of another age. An oyster-catcher rose from the rocks with a piercing call and two curlews flew westwards to a rockpool with their liquid chattering song hanging in the mild air.

You can always have a high expectation on this coast of hearing the call of the curlew, the most dramatic of our native birdsong, so long as you know the time of the tide. As the incoming waters cover the rich estuarine mudflats of this stunted coast, so the curlew population comes up to a field behind temporary wrackings we once had at Ruan Highlanes was a dependable sighting point from which I observed the regular rhythms of curlew life, and also developed a good-enough imitation whistled call to get the birds responding. We walked a

four-mile stretch of the coastal path to return to Portscatho. Ahead of us lay Nare Head, with Gull Rock offshore and the bulk of Dodman Head beyond. A southerly airstream under low cloud maintained very mild conditions but, when the cloud breaks and provides the sunshine of an Indian summer, the sea is still warm enough for a dip.

On this coast, in earlier years, we have swum as late as the end of October but, on this visit, the low cloud heralded the arrival of an Atlantic depression carrying large amounts of rain. A swim did not therefore appear. As we approached Portscatho, now battered down for the winter, I remembered days of summer sun here with the house martins speeding in to feed their young beneath the eaves and the occasional appearance of the seals in the harbour waters at evening time. A long, grey winter precedes the return of the pleasures of the summer sun. COLIN LUCKHURST

09/25/96

The Guardian Diary
Matthew Norman

... the ...
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Diary Matthew Norman

I AM captivated by an interview with Uri Geller in 'Teddy Bear Times'...

FOR the first time since Monty Montgomery tried to stop my mentioning his separation on grounds of "invading his privacy"...

ADMIRERS of the news judgment of GMTV, home for a little while longer of that Barbara Walters manqué, Anthea Turner...

LOVABLY aggressive literary agent Andrew Wylie, the man known to some as Martin Amis's tooth fairy...

FURTHER evidence arrives of rising carnal standards among the nation's uniformed officers...



A double-barrelled assassination

Commentary Peter Preston

THE real ticket to watch 10 days hence isn't Clinton/Gore or Dole/Kemp...

ifty of Clinton's Arkansas than any journalist working for a mainstream newspaper anywhere...

ing interlude in a relentless shift to the hard right. The headline declares: "Clinton is doomed..."

Now we are about to find out what the American voters think, and a few of the old alibis are trotting out...

ONLY two days later (if you believe in polls) the New York Times had the President 20 points ahead...

so much psephological flotsam. Perhaps Bob Dole and added spunk will turn the trick...

On my bookshelf I have the Spring edition of New University's political quarterly in which John Redwood talks gushingly about the inspiration that is New Gingrich...

Alan Travis argues that Michael Howard's plan to toughen sentences is based on false premises. So does the Home Secretary have a secret - and ugly - motivation?

Crimes of punishment

MICHAEL Howard is out in 18 months with good behaviour. It is in fact the equal of a current six-year sentence...

referred only six of them. He wonders the last Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, calls his evidence "flimsy and dubious"...

Some of Mr Howard's "honesty in sentencing" proposals today will make sentences more transparent to the public...

used. Prof Hough found, for example, that half the public thinks that only 50 per cent of rapists are sent to prison...

in the grotesquely lenient or the extremely harsh sentences as they make news. But, as Prof Hough points out, you can't even find out what the going rate is for a 25-year-old housebreaker with previous convictions without asking the Home Office to do a special computer run.

Half the public thinks that only 50 per cent of rapists are sent to prison - in fact the judges actually send down 91 per cent

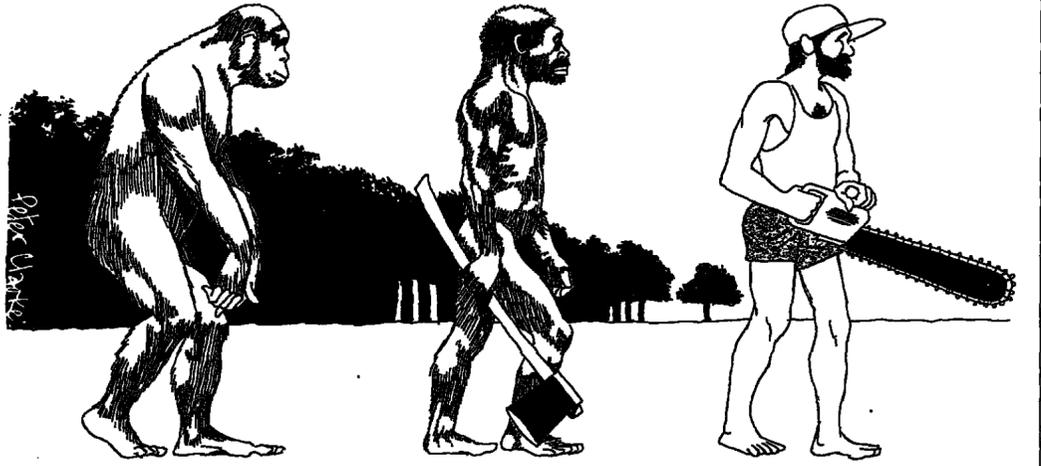
courts are too lenient. For example, he says that in 1994 only 10 out of 217 second-time rapists and violent attackers got a life sentence...

research by "focus-group" Mike Hough, formerly of the Home Office and now of South Bank University, certainly suggests that the public is highly cynical about the courts...

the necessarily destructive attitude towards forests which prevailed in early post-federal society. The United States, Australia and New Zealand were able to grow and prosper only once the trees had been cleared to enable the colonists to advance from the coastal margins...

precondition for more modern civilisations too, and ultimately for the establishment of what nowadays would be called a more cohesive society.

ful, poetic and all the rest of it. Yet earlier societies have seen them as places of fear and the homes of demons. Germans have a much darker mythology of woodlands than the English, as Simon Schama has brilliantly expounded in Landscape and Memory.



The enemy in the forest

History, when you think about it, comes down to a continual battle between men and trees, argues Martin Kettle

TREES are like motherhood, apple pie and, more topically, family values. Nobody has a bad word to say about any one of them...

fore the humans came, there were trees. Left to themselves, trees dominated, forcing out other forms of vegetation and defining the conditions under which other forms of vegetable and animal life could exist...

Our island was once dominated by forests whose persistence ensured our collective poverty. Like it or not - and today's sensibilities do not like it one bit - those forests had to be rolled back in order that first agriculture and then industry might prosper...

As with all debates about historical progress, the defeat of the forests leaves us as the inheritors of a difficult balance. Yes, trees are attractive, beautiful, soul-

ful, poetic and all the rest of it. Yet earlier societies have seen them as places of fear and the homes of demons. Germans have a much darker mythology of woodlands than the English, as Simon Schama has brilliantly expounded in Landscape and Memory.

Why Esther earns our love and respect



Bel Littlejohn

AT LAST, the Beeb (I always call it the Beeb) - I'm not overawed by it, and I'm a much-loved regular in its corridors...

unwary customer to be duped into buying them. In the lifts of many unscrupulous stores, the various items on sale - ladies' fashions, records, household goods, etc - are listed above the lift buttons...

It was while leaving one of these lifts one day that I fell over a discarded bay-bale by mistake, bruising the second finger along on my left hand. Frankly, Esther was in no mood to take my fall lying down, and she was never to forgive or forget that misplaced bale...

She then called for an all-out government ban on bay-bales, and, adopting her most serious expression yet, added: "Until legislation comes, our children will wander the countryside in mortal peril. Cyril!" And then the inimitable Cyril Fletcher entertained us all with one of his immortal "Odd Odes"...

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Bruce Matthews

Plotter at end of the Street

BRUCE Matthews, the former managing director of Fleet Street's restrictive practices, died aged 71, relished his part in the secret plot to outmanoeuvre the print unions during the Wapping battles of 1985 and 1986. He never forgot his role and was proud of it. And when Murdoch pressed a red button and started the presses rolling in Wapping on January 25, 1986, detonating 200 hundred years of print union history, Matthews knew that he had done more than most to make it happen.

When the plot at Wapping was hatched, Matthews was Murdoch's most senior manager in London and although not the first to know of Murdoch's audacious plan, Matthews was in at the beginning. It was Matthews and Murdoch together who came up with a cover plan — the announcement of a new evening paper for London to be printed on a greenfield site, unencumbered by traditional Fleet Street's restrictive practices.

In fact, the whole idea was part of what became known as a dash for freedom from Fleet Street. A spanking new newspaper factory in Docklands was prepared for this new evening newspaper would supposedly be printed; the factory was also capable of producing Murdoch's other four titles — the Times, the Sunday Times, the News of the World and the Sun. All that was left to be done was to provoke the unions to strike — and decamp without them.

If Matthews had his doubts about it, he kept them to himself. In pre-Wapping days, as the managing director of News Group Newspapers Ltd, based in Bouverie Street, just off Fleet Street, in the ramshackle offices which housed the Sun and the News of the World, Matthews looked permanently exhausted. He reported directly to Murdoch

and coupled with the endless without disputes, and furious rows with print-union fathers, Matthews had to put up with pressure from the most demanding of proprietors. In spite of it all, Matthews could be easy going and great fun and became close to several of the chaps there over the years. They in turn treated Matthews very often as no more than a go-between: it was a grudging respect they had for him.

All that changed. He will be remembered quite simply now. Members of the print unions never forgave him the deceit of the Wapping Plot. Indeed today there is a school of thought that had anyone other than Matthews been at the helm and had there been more goodwill between News International and the print unions, then perhaps things might have been different and the unions would eventually have agreed to new technology. After all there was no great desire to stick with the



Information Services — a profitable wheeze whereby he televised horse and dog races directly to bookmakers. He also founded a public relations company and became the chairman of Sound Advertising Sales, a company which sold commercial radio time.

But there was nothing like Fleet Street — and he missed it. There is one unforgettable scene involving Matthews which I reproduced in my



Aftermath of a revolution... Bruce Matthews, a year after News International's victory at Wapping, with print leader Brenda Dean of Sogat 83.

book. On the night that the strike started, by chance on a narrow back staircase in Bouverie Street, Matthews and I had a conversation. He had put out his hand, "I'm sorry Tony", Matthews had said.

It was not the only time he expressed unease. The plot had worked. But it was brutal. More than 5,500 people had gone on strike and were to be sacked for it and Fleet Street changed forever. For Matthews it was hard not to look back and wish it had all been different.

Linda Melvern

Bruce Matthews, newspaper executive, born July 28, 1925; died October 24, 1996

John Bauldie

Devoted to Dylan and the Wanderers

JOHN Bauldie, who was killed, aged 47, in the helicopter crash along with Matthew Harding and three others, had two passions. One was football and Bolton Wanderers; the other — his defining passion — was Bob Dylan. Indeed, it was their mutual love of the singer which first brought Bauldie and Matthew Harding together.

More than three decades of meticulous research had made Bauldie into one of the world's foremost authorities on Dylan's music. He wrote several key books on him, ran a superb quarterly fanzine, the Telegraph, and was so valued by the Dylan organisation that they enlisted his help in compiling the *Boxed Series*, the 1991 CD boxed set which unearthed such lost Dylan gems as *No More Auction Block* and *Blind Willie McKell*.

Yet there was nobody else like the stereotypical "anorak" than John Bauldie. A former lecturer in English literature, he was a dapper and cultured man, who brought a well-rounded intelligence to his

quest. With his inimitable blend of scholarship and devotion, he elevated the often narrow world of fanzines to a different realm. He was never one to gatecrash Dylan's privacy or to peddle in specious theorising. His vocation was to amass the data and win for his hero the serious appraisal due to an outstanding 20th century performer.

Indeed he only met Dylan once, and that was by accident. Following a US tour, he was passing the singer's tour bus when the reclusive icon sauntered out. The two men held a brief and genial conversation, in the course of which John won a much-prized endorsement for his magazine, "The Telegraph". Bob murmured, "I seen a few issues of that. It's pretty interesting."

That was all the recognition that Bauldie required. In 1987, his teaching days behind him, he joined our small team at the newly-launched Q magazine as a sub-editor. For the next nine years, he worked diligently, buffing up our monthly efforts, applying a literary exactitude to the hit-

erto haphazard world of rock journalism. He was a fair bit older than we were, and we loved to mock his professorial pedantry. But he bore our juvenile satire with weary fortitude. And when he laughed, he wept real tears, and his face turned such a shade of scarlet that we feared for the old fellow's heart.

Nothing displaced Dylan in his affections, but he was equally erudite on David Bowie, Bruce Springsteen and, of course, his home-town boys Bolton Wanderers. Those things apart, he loved to travel with his longstanding partner, Penny, and would invariably plan his year around Dylan's interminable tour itineraries. A rather-old fashioned Lancashire gentleman, he cut a memorable figure at those gigs. You'd spot him, immaculately turned-out in his camel-hair coat, looking on with a proprietorial air as he shared his insights with fellow fans.

John Bauldie's books include *All Across the Telegraph*, *Wanted Man* and, with Patrick Humphries, the wryly-entitled *Oh No, Not Another*



John Bauldie... meticulous author and Q stalwart

Eric Malpass

A literary fame in translation

THE writer Eric Malpass, who has died aged 85, was an example of England neglecting her own. Though he described an idealised England that we have all longed for at one time or another, his *Mornings At Seven* was modestly received in this country, but was a best-seller in Europe particularly in Germany.

Mornings At Seven, published in the early 1960s, was a funny book for adults about a seven-year-old boy, Gaylord, who was part of a family that lived in that timeless English countryside which has provided a home for the Larkins and Miss Marples of popular fiction. Thus did the federal republic's hausfrau take Gaylord to their collective bosom.

Apart from war service in the RAF, Malpass was with Barclays Bank in the Midlands for 38 years, contributing stories to the BBC and magazines, one of which won the 1955 Observer short story competition. His first novel, *Becky Jones* (1957), won the Italian Palma D'oro for best humorous novel.

In 1966 he left the bank to write full-time. He was not a man to take risks but the gamble came off. *Mornings At Seven* was his second novel and was well reviewed but did not sell in the British Commonwealth market. But in Germany it stayed at the top of the best-seller list for three years, until the titles changed.

It has been published in more than 60 editions in 15 languages and was filmed in Germany, serialised on French television and broadcast across eastern Europe.

Eric published five more novels with Gaylord as the central figure; a trilogy about Shakespeare, and a novel on Thomas Cranmer, some of these have also been filmed in Germany. He published 16 novels in all.

I never saw Eric Malpass in anything other than a suit and tie. He was a gentle, kindly man with courtly manners, a deep, quiet voice, and unfailing consideration for other people. But I remember him over lunch becoming increasingly animated as he explained how he proposed to fill in the gaps in our knowledge of Shakespeare's life. He had a deep affection for "Sweet Will" and that became the title of one of his novels. He was a fund of knowledge, even quoting from *Henry VI*, which I didn't think anyone read. He remained true to his Midland roots and I always felt it was Shakespeare, the man of property in Stratford rather than the actor-manager in London whom he really warmed to. His immaculate, typescripts arrived on time and needed very little editing, though he seemed to enjoy our good-natured arguments to differ on matters of interpretation; I know I did. His agent John McLaughlin remembers, during the filming of *Mornings At Seven*, his shy pride when they were met on arrival by the mayor of some German town in full regalia bearing bouquets of flowers.

His wife Muriel and his son Michael survive him.

James Wright

Eric (Lawson) Malpass, writer, born November 14, 1910; died October 16, 1996

Eric Halsall

World of sheepdogs



Eric Halsall... a natural broadcaster at home in the country

ERIC Halsall, who has died aged 76, was the voice of the television series *One Man and His Dog* from his birth in 1915 until his retirement in 1987. A familiar figure at sheepdog trial fields up and down the country in his wax jacket and deerstalker and smoking his old pipe, he cared greatly for the countryside and conservation, but sheepdogs and sheepdog trials were his passion.

Eric first met Eric at the English national sheepdog trial at Leek in 1974, where we sat in torrential rain for two days engrossed in the competition.

Eric was the course director responsible for making sure that each competitor had fair treatment, but he also had time to give me a detailed insight into the skills being displayed by man and dog. It was immediately clear to me that he was a natural broadcaster.

When the BBC first proposed a series of televised sheepdog trials to the International Sheepdog Society, there

was an initial suspicion and resistance, but Eric and the then society secretary, Lance Alderson, could see the potential for bringing both the essential work of the dog and the skill and competition of the trials field to a much wider audience. As the series producers came and went, Eric remained the stalwart, reliable source of advice to the programme and he played a key part in the difficult role of selecting competitors each year.

Eric campaigned for a greater awareness of the importance of sheepdogs to the whole farming community. Whatever other changes mechanisation has brought to farming, nothing can beat the skills of an intelligent, efficient dog for gathering sheep. In effect, the survival of hill farms depends on it.

His passion for sheep and sheepdogs had grown around the industrial landscape of Burnley, Lancashire where he was born and brought up and where he spent most of his life. Trained as a surveyor he became a farm manager for the National Coal Board in Lancashire farms. He never worked sheepdogs himself and unlike trial competitors — who may own up to six dogs at one time — he only owned one, but his

knowledge was unrivalled. He wrote seven books, all of which brought out his love of sheepdogs and the countryside, and for the last 36 years he had reported on trials for the *Farmer's Guardian*. He was an active member of the International Sheepdog Society and for a time was an officer of that organisation. Before his introduction to television, Eric's voice was known to local radio listeners in Lancashire where he gave compelling talks on the local countryside and wildlife.

Eric lived for sheepdog trials; any conversation with him always returned to sheepdogs — the folklore around the instinct of a particular dog, the stories of long ago top men and top dogs.

Eric was a warm and gentle man who never raised his voice in all the time we worked together. He won the affection and admiration of the BBC team and of many sheepdog men and their families up and down the hills and valleys.

He leaves his wife Rita, and a sister, Persis.

Philip Gilbert

Eric Halsall, sheepdog trial commentator, born March 18, 1920; died October 21, 1996, aged 76.

Birthdays

- Michael of Hohenzollern, former King of Romania, 73; Lt-Gen Sir Henry Beverley, 61; Henry Commager, historian of America, 94; Juliette Fisher, dancer and teacher of contemporary dance, 55; Sir Martin Gilbert, historian, 60; Jimmy Heath, jazz musician, composer, 70; Steve Hodge, footballer, 34; Michael Lawrence, former chief executive, the Stock Exchange, 53; Michael Lynagh, rugby player, 33; Peter McHugh, director of programmes, GMTV, 50; Joe Mercer, racing manager, 62; Dipak Patel, cricketer, 38; Helen Reddy, singer, 54; Sir George Russell, chairman, Independent Television Commission, 61; Alan Smith, chief executive, Test and County Cricket Board, 60; Keith Taylor, chairman, Esso UK, 58; Galina Vishnevskaya, operatic soprano, 70; Dame Lady (Gillian) Wagner, residential care campaigner, 69; Judith Weleminsky, former director, National Council for Voluntary Organisations, 46; Prof Donald Wiseman, Asserologist, 78.

Death Notices

- KELLY, Alexander, pianist and teacher. Suddenly, on 22nd October 1996, aged 67. Funeral at St Edmund's RC Church, London SW13, 28th October at 3.30pm.
- MORRISON, Margaret, on 22 October after a short illness. Funeral service on Wednesday 30 October, 4.15 pm, West London Crematorium, 175-181 Ealing Road, Ealing, London W5 1SL. In lieu of flowers, donations to St Mary's Hospital Trust Fund 201, 121 Kenyon, 53 Westbourne Grove W2 1LJ, London.

In Memoriam

DAZZLE, Kenneth, Died 23 October 1986. Always loved - always missed. And only now can he be seen.

970 place your announcement telephone 0171 73 4627. Fax 0171 73 4728.

Jackdaw



Hot possum

HOW to Catch a Possum: Since all the recipes here involve possum, I figured it might be worth it to include a section on how to get your hands on one.

I know of several ways to catch a possum. Perhaps the easiest is to simply drive around for a while in your truck. The problem will soon resolve itself. (SCCRREEECCH!!!... SPLAT). Much more fun, however, is to take your dogs and shotgun, and go into the woods and hunt one down. The advantage to this method is that you don't have to scrape the possum off the pavement. The

disadvantage is that you do have to worry about shotgun pellets in the meat.

It is also possible to set traps to catch a possum, but this method is notoriously unreliable. Possums like to stay in the trees, and you're much more likely to catch something else.

Possum and Taters: Ingredients: 1 young, fat possum; 8 sweet potatoes; 2 tablespoons olive oil; 1 tablespoon sugar; salt. Directions: First, catch a possum. This in itself is excellent entertainment on a moonlit night. Skin the possum and remove the head and feet. Be sure to wash it thoroughly. Freeze overnight either outside or in a refrigerator. When ready to cook, peel the potatoes and boil them tender in lightly salted water along with the butter and sugar. At the same time, stew the possum tender in a tightly covered pan with a little water. Arrange the taters around the possum, strip with bacon, sprinkle with thyme or marjoram, or pepper, and brown in the oven. Pot pie with the drippings.

Possum Pie: Ingredients:

1 cup glazed huckleberries, 3 shots gin or moonshine, 1 possum — if roadkill; make jambalaya — if caught; proceed with recipe 1 pie crust sliced cartons of cabbage etc. Directions: Cover a pan or any implement you can put in a fire with the bottom of your pie crust, and place the possum in it. Add the huckleberries and carrots, and shred the cabbage over it. Close up the pie and bake until the neighbors' dogs come sniffing around to see what the wonderful smell is, or until the fire department arrives (which ever comes first). Remove pie from fire; oven, slice, and enjoy.

Recipe recipes at <http://www2.msn.com/edu/orbit/possum.html>

Joint rules

THE person who rolls the joint no matter whose weed it is gets to spark up the joint and get first hits.

After passing the pipe or bong around after taking your first hit, always pass the lighter with the pipe or bong, never hold it and forget about

it unless the bowl is cherry.

If someone rolls a nice joint, it's good to give the person a compliment on his rolling skills.

If someone starts bogarting the bowl and starts using the excuse that it's okay for him to bogart it since it's his weed, this is definitely not cool.

If someone is too pussy to light the bowl (due to being too stoned or the person is just a retard) then they must relinquish control of the lighter to someone more able to get it lit.

If you smoke with someone in your house, you should let them eat some munchy food you may have lying around.

If someone who has smoked asks for a sip of your soda, you must give him some (dry mouth is not fun). (Note: if you ask for a sip, don't take a large gulp.)

Never bitch about someone else's weed being no good! If you don't like it, don't smoke it!

Always remember to thank a person who has gotten you high.

NEVER go to someone's house EXPECTING them to

get you stoned. Of course, there are exceptions to this rule.

Do not, I repeat do not smoke your pet out if he is under six. Because you do not want to kill your pet, unless it deserves to die, or which I can't think of a pet that does.

Only hope that you do not get too high and forget all the etiquette you're meant to remember. At www.comland.com/cult/astq.html

High pedaller

SWISS inventor Daniel Stocker is patenting a bicycle with a difference — it travels vertically up a track as the rider pedals away. He hopes skyhigh cycling could be a new sport for daredevils.

The SkyBike looks like an ordinary cycle but has an extra chain driven by the gears on the rear wheel. This chain drives a cog that meshes with a toothed track, which runs up the telescopic arm of a crane.

The crane is towed to an open space, and the arm is extended and raised verti-

cally. When a brave cyclist starts to pedal, the meshing cogs lift the bike skywards. Ratches and latches ensure that it does not fall if the cyclist runs out of puff. They also control the descent once the cyclist has reached the top. The device meets Swiss safety standards and the inventor claims it is "safer than riding a bike on the street."

Great news for high fliers reported in the New Scientist.

Chat-burglar

● JEFF? Oh, I'm sorry, you look just like a friend of mine.

● We seem to be going the same direction. Would you like to share a cab?

● You know, if you buy two of those, the second one is half price.

● What a cute puppy! How old is she?

● Are you a friend of the bride or the groom?

● Excuse me, didn't you go to [the name of your college]?

● I can tell you're a man who's dangerous.

● Great cufflinks. Where did you get them?

● Don't you just love the way they fix the bush brows here?

● Would you mind if I glanced at your newspaper when you're finished?

● Don't I know you from the health club?

● I love that tie. Did you buy it in this store?

● Do you happen to know where they keep the X-rated videos?

● Anybody ever tell you you have gorgeous blue eyes?

● Can I measure this belt on you? I need to get a present for

my brother, and you look about the same size.

● Is this bus driver a psycho or what?

● It's obvious your dog has soul.

● This had to be the day I forgot my umbrella.

● Rollerblade over to him and grab him in order to stop, then thank him warmly. (Not exactly a pickup line, but this trick works!)

● Would you mind spotting me on this machine?

● Could you help me pick up something for my father?

● Have you ever been on a slower elevator?

● I have to tell you this: you're the first man I've seen all day with his shoes shined. US Cosmo and its suggestions for pick up lines for women to adopt. One can only hope they are not being serious. Thanks to Mathius Disney.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax: 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield

Emily Sheffield, born 1915; died October 21, 1996, aged 81.

More jobs go...

2000 Stock for...

Cash Bonanza

Rebel direct to be forced off Emap

skins target for after summer

Country hotels

King reports

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

£800 stock for nine million members as building society spurns bid protection in £10bn conversion

Cash bonanza

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Halifax reverse takeover ploy set to lift flotation share price

Teressa Hunter

NINE MILLION savers and borrowers will receive about £800 worth of free shares next June when the Halifax launches the biggest ever UK stock market flotation at £10 billion.

are protected from takeover for five years. But Halifax chiefs insist the bank will be able to survive without legislative ring-fencing.



ing date of November 26 1994 to qualify for a maximum allocation of free shares. They will be told how many shares they will receive in the society's transfer document, which will be dispatched with

voting forms in February. The document will also give an indication of the price at which shares will begin trading so members will know how much they will benefit from a yes vote.

Chief executive Mike Blackburn said: "We believe such restrictions are neither necessary nor appropriate and that the Halifax should stand on equal terms with the other top 25 companies listed on the stock market."

Notebook

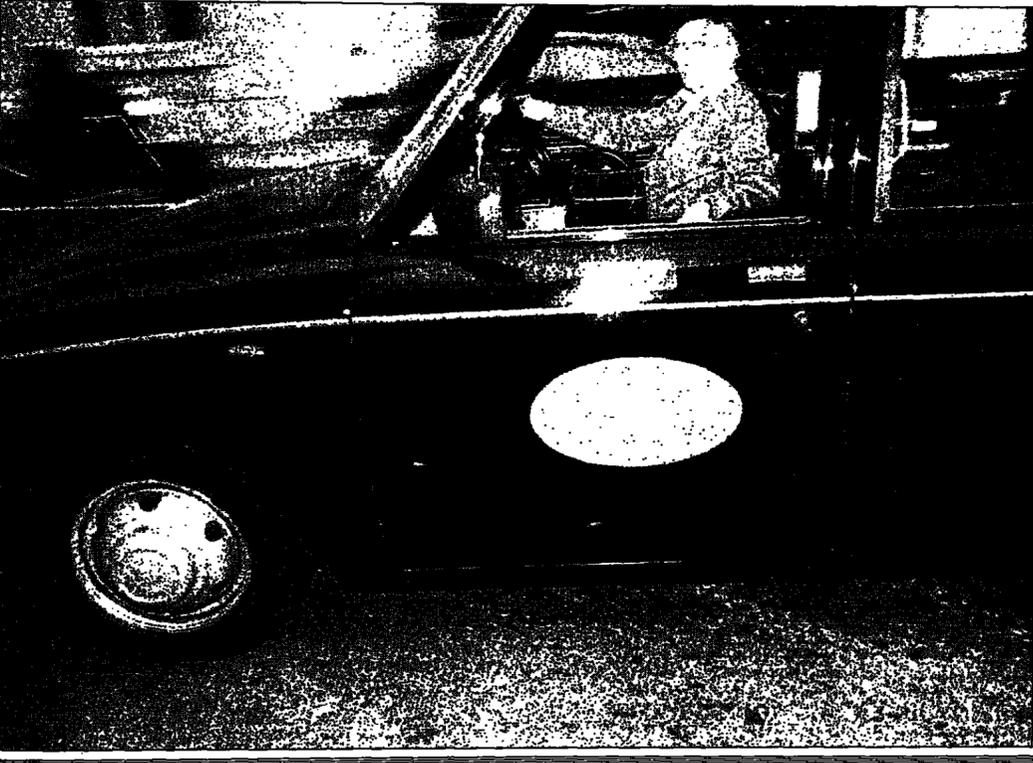
VAT ruling hits the public twice



Edited by Mark Milner

YESTERDAY'S European Court of Justice ruling against HM Customs and Excise could cost up to £200 million in VAT repayments, provided those companies affected by the decision have kept 23 years' worth of records.

So, what are the prospects for its substantial overseas operations, not least its global network and its 58 per cent stake in Hongkong Telecom?



Cab firm in £10m fare to stock market

COMPUTER Cab, London's biggest black tax company, is heading for a stock market float that could value it at over £10 million, writes Ian King.

But limiting the period for which wrongly charged VAT repayments can be claimed to three years would be unfair, all the more so in that the new rules are already in force, awaiting Parliament's rubber stamp.

Philips' frisson
PHILIPS chairman Cor Boonstra was simultaneously apologetic and robust as he delivered the company's third quarter results yesterday.

Rebel directors to be forced off Emap board

Hoskyns target for anger after summit at country hotel. Ian King reports

SIR John Hoskyns, the chairman of Emap and former adviser to Baroness Thatcher, is likely to face calls for his resignation after news last night that two rebel directors are to be forced off the publishing group's board.

would not be used to remove Prof Simmonds and Mr Cooke. He added: "I am not particularly happy at this news, and I would be surprised if many people will be. Certain assurances were given that it wasn't to get at certain people, and it would seem that impression was wrong."

Taxpayers face paying for National Savings fraud and bungling

Teressa Hunter

NATIONAL Savings is today accused of bureaucratic bungling, after the National Audit Office uncovered serious weaknesses in the body's accounting system.

Americans throw gauntlet at Reuters for £200m business

Ian King

THE fight to control the £200 million business of supplying City dealers with share price information intensified yesterday when the National Audit Office uncovered serious weaknesses in the body's accounting system.

which is regarded as the clear market leader in the information sector, but which lags behind ICV in the share quotation business.

ICV managers own some 10 per cent of the company. Announcing the deal, Primark's chairman, Joseph Kasputis, immediately threw down the gauntlet to Reuters, pledging that the joint venture between Primark and Dow Jones would be the best news, price quotation and information provider available.

Alleged BP 'fixer' in Colombia named

John Palmer in Brussels

BRITISH Petroleum's alleged "inside man" within the Colombian government was named in the European Parliament yesterday.

damage in Colombia. MEPs responded to Mr Howitt's claims by calling for the Colombian government to publish the human rights commission report upon which some of his allegations are based.

lombian army. It alleges that a number of the protesters were then murdered or "disappeared" and gives details of seven such murders.

Mr Howitt told MEPs: "I believe environmental damage is being inflicted on the people of Casanare as seriously as the evidence exposed in this parliament of Shell's action against the Ogoni people in Nigeria."

The report - which BP says consists of unchecked answers to loaded questions - accuses the company of passing video footage of people protesting against oil pollution in the Casanare region to the Co-

Councils turn screw on Morgan Grenfell

Sarah Whitebloom

LOCAL government treasurers - with responsibility for hundreds of millions of pounds of pension funds - are demanding answers from the troubled asset management arm of Morgan Grenfell about its security and systems in the wake of the Peter Young affair, the Guardian has learned.

Roots said yesterday Morgan Grenfell's results had been "first class". Led by Norfolk County Council, the seven English shire authorities and Scottish regional councils which have funds with Morgan Grenfell have called on the firm to complete a detailed questionnaire about its internal controls. The councils also want their auditors to carry out a site visit as part of the review.

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

Australia 1.9565	France 7.95	Italy 2.398	Singapore 2.1
Austria 16.59	Germany 2.98	Malta 0.5905	South Africa 7.11
Belgium 48.65	Greece 373.00	Netherlands 2.65	Spain 163.75
Canada 2.95	Hong Kong 12.05	New Zealand 2.21	Sweden 10.34
Cyprus 0.7170	India 98.83	Norway 10.06	Switzerland 1.95
Denmark 8.08	Ireland 0.9615	Portugal 268.15	Turkey 147.140
Finland 7.29	Israel 5.19	Saudi Arabia 5.98	USA 1.5525

Regulators need better advice, CBI insists

Celia Weston
Industrial Correspondent

PRIVATISED utility regulators should have permanent expert advisory boards but should not be merged or replaced by a single "super regulator", the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday.

The employers' group also confirmed its opposition to Labour's plans for a windfall tax on utility profits.

The CBI's intervention on regulation came the day after the Government failed to include new competition legislation in the Queen's Speech.

Recently, British Gas has engaged in a fierce campaign against price controls proposed by the gas industry watchdog, Clare Spottiswoode, while decisions by other regulators have also come under fire.

Peter Agar, CBI deputy director-general, said: "Regulation has unfortunately become rather individualised and personalised, which is why we want the advisory boards. But we don't support imposing another layer of bureaucracy."

Nor would the CBI support changes to the regulatory pricing formula that broke the connection with the Retail Price Index. "The RPI minus x" percentage price cap provides strong incentives to efficiency for the utilities and brings benefits to consumers," Mr Agar said.

Advocacy of consumer interests — in utility or industrial — should also be strengthened through the cre-

ation of separate, independent bodies for each of the utilities. These should be similar to the Gas Consumers Council, which is statutory and funded by Government, Mr Agar said. Some consumer bodies were too much under the wing of regulators.

Speaking at the launch of a CBI discussion paper, "Regulating the Regulators", Mr Agar said business interests would not oppose closer working or merger of the gas and electricity watchdogs, Ofgas and Offer, if that developed. "But the regulation of utilities needs changing by evolution rather than by pulling the whole thing up by the roots."

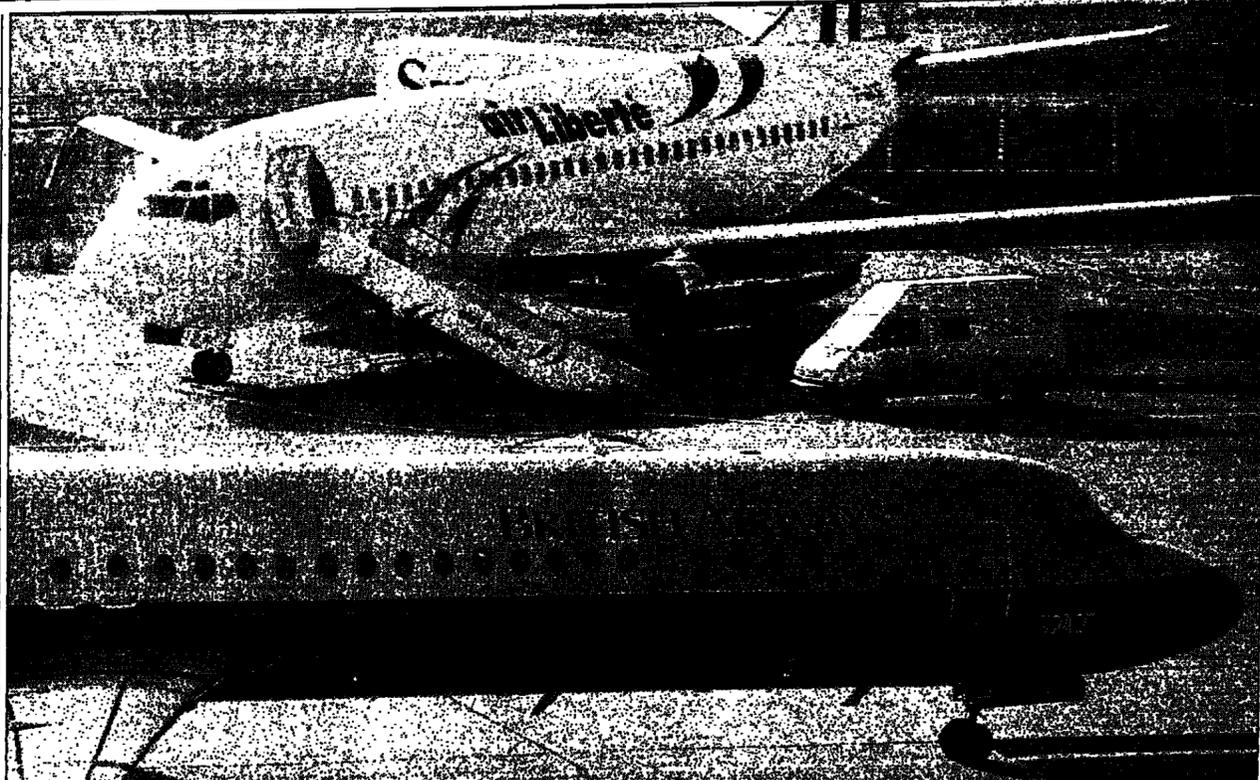
The deputy director-general said regulation could only be a surrogate for competition, and the CBI would continue to lobby for more comprehensive competition legislation after the general election.

The discussion paper, drawn up by a CBI working group, which included utility representatives, says it is necessary that decision-making by regulators be more transparent and accountability to Parliament strengthened.

A quick and simple system for industries to appeal against regulators' decisions should be introduced, in addition to the system allowing companies to trigger referendums on Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Explicit government guidelines on social obligations and merger control were also needed, the paper said.

The CBI hoped, however, that a windfall tax would not be introduced, as it is not good business to impose retrospective taxation," Mr Agar said.



Airports told to cut charges by £150m

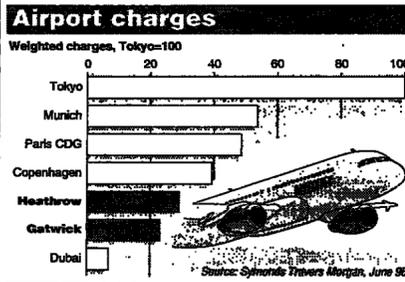
Celia Weston
Industrial Correspondent

CHARGES levied on airlines by operator BAA for the use of Gatwick, Heathrow and Stansted airports must be cut by £150 million over the next five years, the Civil Aviation Authority announced yesterday.

News of the price cap decision coincided with reports that the Government is to abandon plans to privatise Britain's air traffic control service this side of an election. Labour had pledged to

do everything possible to block any proposals.

The CAA also announced that it intended to publish an annual review of BAA's performance to ensure the group was carrying out the capital investment programme on which the authority's price cap decision was based.



Most of that expenditure — £180 million by March — will go towards Heathrow's proposed new Terminal 5.

The air industry regulator said the overall price control will require BAA to keep landing charge increases at Heathrow and Gatwick to three percentage points below inflation — the RPI-X formula. Stansted will be allowed to increase its charges by up to one percentage point above inflation each year.

The price cap, due to come into effect in April for five years, is in line with the recommendations of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report published in July.

Russell Walls, finance director of BAA, said the price cap was challenging. It assumed the group could

achieve 4 per cent productivity savings each year and a 15 per cent reduction in construction costs over the period.

THE European Commission is expected to press for lower airport charges, *Julle Wolf writes from Brussels.* Transport commissioner Neil Kinnock said yesterday that Brussels was concerned that the airlines faced high costs, including airport charges. The costs include ground handling fees, air traffic control and airport charges, he said.

Unveiling a report on airline deregulation, Mr Kinnock said the commission would present legislative plans to ensure that airport fees are non-discriminatory, transparent and cost-effective.

THE struggle for control of bankrupt French airline Air Liberté is turning into another battle between British Airways and Richard Branson's Virgin.

Virgin Express, the regional airline, is expected to submit a bid for the French airline today.

The prize is a clutch of lucrative landing slots at Paris's Orly airport, and a foothold in Europe's largest domestic air travel market.

French court-appointed administrators will meet Air Liberté workers' council this afternoon to discuss the takeover proposals.

BA has submitted a joint bid with Banque Paribas, which would involve pumping 600 million francs (£96 million) into Air Liberté.

The BA proposal has tentative union support because it will preserve 1,250 jobs for three years.

PHOTOGRAPH: REMY DE LA MAUVIGNERE

ICI hit by dip in chemical prices

Ian King

ICI ADMITTED yesterday it had been battered by price falls in its key industrial chemicals division as it announced a collapse in third-quarter pre-tax profits to £131 million, against £248 million for the same period in 1995.

But ICI insisted that the main areas affected — polyester and titanium dioxide — were showing signs of recovery, even though prices had been sharply lower during the quarter.

Overall ICI's pre-tax profits for the first nine months of 1996 — not including one-off factors — fell from £758 million to £498 million, despite a rise in sales.

Apart from the disappointing chemicals results, which had been largely expected by the City, ICI — which before its demerger with Zeneca was regarded as the bellwether of industrial health — said its other businesses were enjoying better trading.

Among these, ICI highlighted its paints division —

which includes Dulux and other decorative products — where it notched up record profits for the nine months of £127 million, due mainly to the housing recovery.

But Sir Ronnie Hampel, ICI's chairman, admitted that the disappointing performance in industrial chemicals had been the main factor in the overall results. "While there is evidence of strengthening demand in the OECD, confidence is still lacking, particularly in continental Europe. The pace of activity remains uneven and no significant change is expected before the end of the year."

In the City, analysts reacted with relief that the results had not been as bad as some forecasters had expected, and ICI shares closed 18p higher at 793½p.

Peter Blair, an analyst at Salomon Brothers said: "Their results were at the low end of expectations, but there was no surprise in the mix. Most areas are reasonably OK, but it is in industrial chemicals that they have been creamed."

Philips threatens closures to arrest profits fall

Surgery branded failure as chief takes blame, writes Nicholas Bannister

THERE was an air of déjà vu yesterday as Cor Boonstra, chairman of the Philips electronics group, announced steeply falling profits, a costly restructuring and job losses. His predecessor Jan Timmer, who retired this year, started his reign as chairman in equally dramatic fashion.

But yesterday's news, which followed a profits warning earlier in the month, seems all the worse

because the drastic action taken by Mr Timmer was thought to have put the Dutch electronics group back on the path of growth.

Mr Boonstra disclosed third-quarter profits down 77 per cent to 123 million guilders (£45.2 million), despite a 4.6 per cent upturn in sales, and announced a one billion guilder provision in the fourth quarter to cover wholesale restructuring.

"There are no taboos, no holy cows," he said.

The group said the downturn was mainly the result of operating losses in its consumer and professional product divisions and lower margins in components and semi-conductors.

Mr Boonstra said: "The third-quarter results are very, very disappointing to

us. We could refer to the market, or to price erosion, or to competition, but we have a different message. We, the management, are responsible."

He said the group would tackle problems more aggressively, with the aim of getting more done with fewer people.

"We will turn around, close or sell businesses that are not performing to our standards or fitting into our portfolio."

He said the group intended to restructure all its main divisions. The group has already made an 800 million guilder provision this year for restructuring its sight and sound division.

The finance director, Dudley Eustace, said: "There will be a loss of jobs

in those areas which are high-cost and a gaining of jobs in those geographical areas which offer lower-cost labour. It's a fair guess to say more jobs will be lost than gained in western Europe."

PolyGram, Philips' 75 per cent-owned music and films business, announced on Wednesday that it would be making a £56 million provision to cover a revamp of its music business.

Dutch unions expect that Philips will shed another 2,500 jobs on top of the 1,000 already announced.

One official commented: "Boonstra is in a hurry."

Mr Timmer initially cut the workforce from 300,000 to 244,000 before allowing it to rise to 265,000 on the back of the then booming semi-conductor business.

News in brief

500 jobs at risk in clothier's revamp

FIVE HUNDRED jobs are at risk at William Baird — a leading supplier to Marks & Spencer and the owner of clothing brands including Windsmoor and Dannimac — after the company yesterday announced restructuring plans. The scheme involves closing three of the company's 34 UK factories over the next 18 months and moving production to the Philippines and Sri Lanka. It is planned to sell off peripheral parts of Baird's business and smaller brands such as Berketex — leaving hundreds of other workers in an uncertain position.

The shake-up, ordered by Baird's new chief executive, David Suddens, is expected to wipe out the company's 1996 profits. In the six months to the end of June, the group turned in pre-tax profit of £5.1 million, against £8.4 million in the same period last year. — Sarah Whitebloom

Price stops new jobs measure

PLANS for a new survey-based measure of unemployment have been abandoned on the grounds of cost, the Government confirmed yesterday. Despite mounting criticism of the claimant-count yardstick, the Cabinet has decided against adopting a European-style monthly survey — at an £8 million set-up cost.

The Government is to retain the quarterly Labour Force Survey, and a spokesman for the Office for National Statistics said that efforts would be made to speed up the publication of its findings. "Details on part-time working 'discouraged' workers (people who have given up the search for work) and the position of men and women could all be released earlier," the official said. He said no changes were expected until late 1997. — Richard Thomas

Profits rise at Deutsche Bank

DEUTSCHE, Germany's biggest bank, yesterday unveiled a 9 per cent rise in net profit in the first nine months of the year, led by commissions. Net profit rose to 1.53 billion German marks (£930 million). Operating profit, before taxes and after risk provisions and trading income, rose 25.8 per cent to 3.49 billion marks.

Both figures were below analysts' expectations. "We expect that the positive profit trend will continue into the fourth quarter," chief executive Hilmar Kopper said. — Bloomberg

Vickers workers strike

WORKERS at a factory where the Challenger tank is built are to stage a 24-hour strike today in a dispute over pay and conditions. Members of four unions at the Vickers Defence Systems factory in Leeds fear a loss of earnings under a restructuring plan.

The unions rejected a 3 per cent pay offer to accept the restructuring, but claim that the company has taken the first steps towards imposing the changes. Dick Croft, regional officer of the AEEU, said: "This should be a time for celebration in the company following the recent MoD approval for our Challenger II battle tank, but instead we're embroiled in this dispute with a management who refuse to listen to us." The company declined to comment on the dispute.

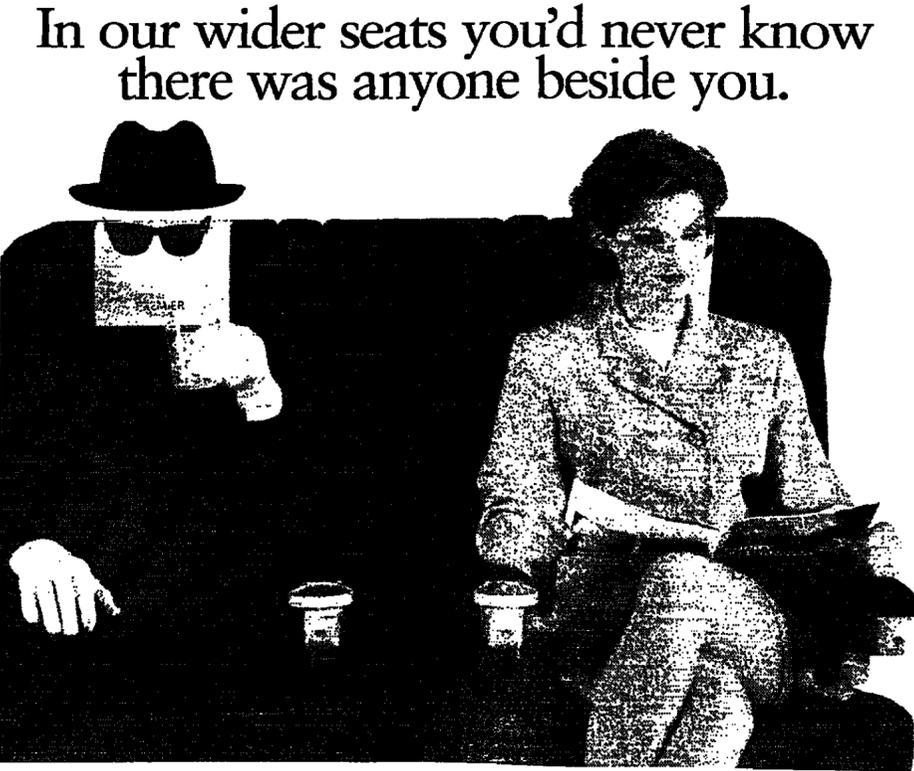
Shorts hires more

SHORT Brothers, the Northern Ireland plane-maker, said it would hire 120 workers to speed production of advanced composite materials needed to make aircraft parts at two plants near Belfast. Shorts makes airframes for Bombardier's corporate and short-haul passenger jets as well as parts for other aircraft.

Hotels flotation pulled

PRINCIPAL Hotels, the Harrogate-based group, has fallen victim to waning demand among City institutions for hotel stocks. The company's backers, led by NatWest Ventures, yesterday pulled a planned £100 million-plus flotation, which would have been this year's sixth new issue in the hotels sector.

There was speculation that the company might follow Loughborough — which last month pulled a float of its Metropole and Princess hotels — in seeking a trade sale. However, a source close to the company said: "The chances are we'll look to float this time next year." — Dominic Walsh



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Cigar s
looking
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Philips Hawkins

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PHOTOGRAPH: REMY DE LA MAUVIGNERE

Cigar still looking full of puff

Chris Hawkins in Toronto catches up with the super horse

CIGAR, winner of over \$4 million this year and a total of \$9.5 million in his career, runs for the 33rd and possibly last time in tomorrow's Breeders' Cup Classic in Toronto.

Image portrayed by British trainers and his approach is very much hands-on. He led Cigar out yesterday and walked him all the way from his barn on one side of the Woodbine track to the paddock behind the grandstand on the other.



Dawn patrol... Cigar is led out for some early morning light exercise by trainer Bill Mott at Woodbine racetrack yesterday

Doncaster runners and riders with form

Table containing race results and form for Doncaster runners and riders, including race numbers, names, and finishing positions.

Story with a happy ending

DESSERT Story will be coming out at next year's 2,000 Guineas after coming out on top in a desperate finish to the Vodafone Horris Hill Stakes at Newbury yesterday.

Mytton seems choice wager

THE Breeders' Cup may dominate this weekend's racing, but there is a tasty little jumps programme at Newbury today with some leading names - past and present - on show.

Newbury (N.H.)

Table containing race results and form for Newbury (N.H.) runners and riders, including race numbers, names, and finishing positions.

Fakenham (N.H.)

Table containing race results and form for Fakenham (N.H.) runners and riders, including race numbers, names, and finishing positions.

Mytton seems choice wager

THE Breeders' Cup may dominate this weekend's racing, but there is a tasty little jumps programme at Newbury today with some leading names - past and present - on show.

Results

Table of racing results for various events, including race numbers, names, and finishing positions.

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RACELINE logo and contact information for Doncaster, Newbury, and Fakenham.

Rugby Union

Robert Armstrong on a measure of rapprochement by the top clubs that should preserve the integrity of England's forthcoming internationals

Rowell gets his leading men back

ENGLAND will have all players at their disposal for the pre-Christmas international. But Epruc (English Professional Rugby Union Clubs), which represents clubs in Courage Leagues One and Two and last month persuaded players to boycott an England training session, said the players would not be released for RFU divisional games against touring sides and domestic opposition. The England coach Jack Rowell will therefore have a free hand in selecting his

team for forthcoming matches against Italy, the New Zealand Barbarians and Argentina. Players contracted to Epruc will also be available for England squad sessions. Donald Kerr, chairman of Epruc, said yesterday that a breakthrough by the leading clubs after this week's breakdown in talks with the RFU was not on the Epruc agenda. He insisted, though, that the clubs' demands for greater control of their own competitions, revenue and broadcasting rights would be pressed vigorously, perhaps with the involvement of an independent arbitrator. Epruc's policy will ease the pressure on the England management, which must pare down an unwieldy squad from 46 to 21 within the next fortnight as they prepare for the Italy game on November 23. Rowell may now feel encouraged to name his captain. Tony Hallett, the RFU's secretary, hinted that divisional selectors may consider players in Leagues Three and Four as well as reserve-team players in the upper leagues for games against Queens-

land, the New Zealand Barbarians and Argentina. "We will select our first-choice teams for these matches and leave it up to the players to decide," Hallett said. "If they decline our invitations, we will re-select until we put 15 players on the pitch. We'll find alternative venues if we need to." He said representative call-ups to England's senior, A and student sides would "soak up" most leading players, thus creating an opportunity for lesser-known talents. Epruc's decision not to use

the England players as pawns in its protracted dispute with the RFU was to some extent forced by the players' representatives, who have shown marked reluctance to become embroiled in English rugby's power politics. Epruc will rely instead on the threat of legal sanctions to pursue its goal of independent control of club competition at home and on the Continent. Peter Wheeler, Leicester's chief executive and an Epruc negotiator, acknowledged that the financial vulnerability of some clubs made it difficult to bargain with the RFU from a position of strength and unity. He suggested that Twickenham, by putting its latest offer directly to the clubs, was counting on their commercial insecurity to win their acquiescence. Wheeler added: "One person stopped the signing, and if the RFU's internal fighting ended we could be in agreement. I am talking about Cliff Brittle (chairman of the RFU executive committee). It is astonishing that one person can wield such power." The significant shift in



Ames... first-round leader

Ames off to protect Allenby

David Davies at Valderrama

AS ROBERT ALLENBY winged his painful way back to Australia yesterday having struck the silliest shot of the season, the news from the course, so far as he was concerned, was mixed. Allenby is currently third in the Volvo rankings, desperately wants to stay there to improve his chances of a US Masters invitation, and after the first round he would have liked the look of the leaders.

Stephen Ames, who is not a threat to anyone, returned a four-under-par 67 and Paul Curry and Gordon Brand jr were a stroke behind. But none of the three men in a position to displace the Australian Constantino Rocca, Lee Westwood and Andrew Coltart, who are fourth, fifth and sixth in the Volvo rankings — obliged with a high score. Rocca is jointly fourth on 69, Westwood jointly 11th on 71 and Coltart far from out of it, on a course as difficult as this, with a 73.

Colin Montgomerie is also on 71, the best of the superstars. Severiano Ballesteros took six at the short 12th for a 74, and Ian Woosnam took five at the short 4rd, broke his putter and, with a 76, finished joint 22nd in a field of 65.

Whether Woosnam's club came apart in a fit of temper is a moot point. Observers say that on the pathway from the 5th green, which he had just three-puttered, to the 6th tee the Welshman aimed the putter head at an acorn and, in keeping with his round, missed. The club snapped but the rules say that if it was not broken in anger he was entitled to replace it. As he finished the round putting with a one-iron, one can only assume his intentions towards the acorn were malicious. As Woosnam began to get the hang of putting with this unorthodox instrument he had four threes in a row from the 12th, two of them birdies at the 13th and 14th. So impressed were the crowd by this putting prowess that when he teed up at the short 15th, some 226 yards long and over a jungle-filled ravine, he was urged: "Take your putter, Wooseie." He grinned and smacked a three-iron to 15 feet.

Ballesteros confessed that the 12th was "a big, big hurt". He was one under at the time. He never saw his first tee-shot go far right did it fly, and he missed the green with his second as well. He took another six at the long 17th, the controversial hole that he designed. Going for the green with his second — which was "too much risk," he admitted — he ended up in the green-side lake.

Ballesteros thinks the hole is "spectacular, the trademark hole for the course, beautiful and great for the Ryder Cup". But he would, wouldn't he? Most of the rest think the band of rough that runs across the fairway at good "drive" length is ridiculous, the green is too narrow and the shaven banks of the lake are unfair. They would, wouldn't they?

Besides the main struggle, three men are fighting for the Rookie of the Year title. All have won tournaments this year and the Dane Thomas Bjorn leads Padraig Harrington (Ireland) by £4,000. Raymond Russell (Scotland) is a further £15,000 behind. Yesterday Harrington (69) was two strokes ahead of Bjorn and three of Russell. This was largely thanks to his first professional hole-in-one. It came at the 3rd, 173 yards long. The Irishman hit a seven-iron which pitched eight feet from the hole and bounced in.

Immediately behind the leaders — and likely to be a day after Group 4 in reaching the finish — Andy Hindley's Save the Children and Richard Merriweather's Commercial Union are continuing their close battle. It took 24 hours for Save the Children to gain two miles of her rival after Merriweather and his crew had drawn level from 15 miles astern.

Hindley reported: "All through the night CU and Save were never more than three miles apart, constantly monitoring each other's progress by radar."

Bob Dwyer drops Underwood for Leicester's European excursion and would have done the same to Campese. Eddie Butler reports

The man putting new stripes on the Tigers

BOB DWYER should not be a good talker; he looks too mournful to enjoy a matter. The mop of dark hair, sprightly enough but the large spectacles and bushy moustache combine to give him the lugubrious air of someone resigned to live with a career in decline.

Four years after winning the World Cup in England, Dwyer's Australia were dumped out of the 1995 tournament by England and the coach was relieved of his duties. Having taken his team into the South African experience as run-around favourites, Dwyer found himself on the wrong end of a Rob Andrew drop goal and the wrong side of the inquest.

Australians and New Zealanders have an inbuilt yearning to do their OE, their Overseas Experience. About 30 years later than most of his compatriots, Dwyer set off last autumn for Paris, to coach the utterly unpredictable but undeniably glamorous Racing Club de France.

By Christmas he had dropped their stars Laurent Cabannes, Laurent Bénézech, Xavier Blond and Denis Charvet at least once. How could he change attitudes if they did not bother to train? Only Franck Mesnel listened and turned up to practise alien flat-back moves. However, the conversion of the veteran midfielder did not save Dwyer. Racing first halted his contract, then said adieu as they headed for Division B.

Now Dwyer has come to England to coach Leicester: utterly predictable, undeniably unglamorous. For flat-back, read throwback. Front-row, Martin Johnson. Deano. The man, Dwyer is the coach of the most boring team in the world. But boring he is not, and his capacity to shock remains. Yesterday he dropped Rory Underwood for the first time in his Leicester career, just a month after the wing was ignored by England. Dwyer believes Underwood's duties as an RAF pilot are hampering his rugby and has decided to give the teenager Leon Lloyd his chance instead for tomorrow's European Cup assignment in France with the hard men of Pau. "I'd like to see an England and Lions winger play



Overseer over here... Bob Dwyer, former coach of Australia, supervises training at Leicester, where he is trying to fathom a throw-back pack

PHOTOGRAPH: GEORGE HERRINGSHAW

like an England and Lions winger," he said. Last week he sat in his office at Oval Park, Osby, hunched in his long stockman's coat. The heating in the temporary structure had not come on. On the wall was further evidence of substitutions for the spoken word. The magnet board was jam-packed with messages in coloured felt-pen: orange was for injury updates — out for two weeks was 2/52, three months was 3/12 — red for travel plans and brow for career structures. Would he talk? He began his first reply at

11.02am and finished it 37 minutes later. One question — something penetrating like "So, how's it going, Bob?" — led to one answer. He would not have picked David Campese for the current Wallabies tour of Europe — the great Campo whom Dwyer had protected throughout the wing's brilliant, turbulent career, which brought his 100th cap in Italy on Wednesday. "He played garbage all year and then he had a great Sydney Grand Final. It shouldn't have been enough. For example," he said here he began writing down a

series of initials — JR, DS, BT, AM, a squiggle, then DC — "Joe Roff, Damien Smith, Ben Tume, Allstair Murdoch, somebody else; they were all ahead of Campo. But [and here he began to scratch out the initials] he's picked at centre, he's injured, he's not considered." "So Campo's back. No reason why not. Britain brings out the best in him. Difficult to explain really; it's certainly nothing to do with the weather. By the way, I bet you it rains twice as much in England as it does here. All that stuff about you lot not being

able to play a handling game because of the rain is garbage. And have you ever seen it rain in Fiji? It throws it down and they never drop a pass. "And talking of passing — and I know you're going to ask me about Leicester being boring — did you know that we put together a passing movement against Leinster which could not have been better executed by anyone in the world?" "My idea of a good player is someone who does his job at the right time so that the team benefits. That can be specific in flat-back play

where the timing of the passes and the runs are all important in the face — literally in the faces — of the defence. But it can also relate to the broader picture, like the loose-head prop who has to keep the scrumpage straight so that the cut-out pass wide on the left does exactly what it's meant to. "Campo was the exception. You had to let him follow his own legs, even if they got it wrong for the team. There's another genius in the party, David Knox at fly-half. I wish the team benefited. That can be younger, but there was always

a lot of opposition to his selection. He does his own thing. "I like to see youngsters. I'd like to see the second-grade and development teams at Leicester play before the first team, so I can see what's coming through. Let them have a game and then stick them on the first-team bench. Never mind the condition of the pitch. When did the pitch come before the players?" The Tigers' coach scribbled, scratched and talked on, his mournfulness only a disguise for he was animatedly plotting the brightest phase of his career structure.

Rugby League

Salford winger switches codes

Paul Fitzpatrick

FATA SINI, the Western Samoa and Salford Reds winger, has switched codes to play for Llanelli in what represents a double disappointment for the rugby league club.

The 26-year-old Sini — he is out of contract, so no fee was involved — made a significant contribution to Salford's successful First Division Championship campaign and will be difficult to replace. Andy Gregory, the Salford coach busy trying to expand his squad in readiness for the Super League season, said that the club were bitterly disappointed to lose the player but "simply could not match Llanelli's offer". Sini, who scored two tries for Western Samoa against England in the 1995 rugby union World Cup, was with the rugby league club at the time the tries came regularly and he finished the season with 15 as Salford secured promotion to Super League.

Great Britain have recalled Keith Senior to their tour party. The 20-year-old was one of 12 players to be told they were being sent home as an RFL cost-cutting measure by the chief executive Maurice Lindsay on Tuesday. However, after speaking to Phil Larder, Lindsay yesterday agreed to allow the coach to retain Senior for the remainder of the tour. The Eagles player had forced his way into the Test team in Fiji earlier this month but then struggled to cope in last Friday's first Test defeat by New Zealand in Auckland. Tony Smith is in hospital with an arm infection, so Senior is one of three other players, along with Leeds' Adrian Morley and Bradford forward Bernard Dwyer, not expected to be involved in this morning's second Test. "I have got mixed feelings about staying," said Senior. "It was a big disappointment to be dropped from the Test team because the tour had gone superbly for me until then. But after that I was looking forward to going home. "Now I'm here I have got to make the most of it, knuckle down at training and hope to force my way in." Smith, the Castleford half-back, is hoping to be in contention for the third Test in Christchurch a week after having his infected arm drained yesterday. Lindsay had decided to call more than a third of the squad home with only two Tests remaining. Hallett Blue Sox have announced a record sponsorship deal with Computasense which will net them more than £275,000 up until 1998.

Tennis

Jaded Sabatini calls it a day

GABRIELA SABATINI yesterday announced her retirement from world tennis, bringing to an end a career which earned her a \$2 million fortune in prize-money alone over the past 12 years, yet she departs with her talent largely unfulfilled. The sixth-highest money-winner in women's tennis history, her decision came abruptly, with no plans to play even in selected tournaments or to undertake a farewell tour.

However, Dave Checketts, the president of New York's Madison Square Garden, declared that the opening night of the Corel WTA Tour's Chase Championships there on November 18 would be "Farewell Gaby Night". Problems with motivation as well as a stomach-muscle injury which has troubled the glamorous Argentinian throughout 1996, causing her to miss Wimbledon and Paris, have precipitated her retirement at a relatively earlier age of 26. "I have made this decision after a long and well thought-out analysis," Sabatini said yesterday. "out of which has arisen my strong desire to pursue the development of other activities." She turned professional when she was only 14, and was hailed as the player most likely to challenge Germany's Steffi Graf. But the highest world ranking she achieved was No. 3 in 1989, 1991 and 1992, and she won only one Grand Slam title when, for once, she did get the better of

Graf in a stirring final of the US Open in 1990. In all, she won 27 singles and 12 doubles titles and collected cheques for \$8,785,849. Only Martina Navratilova, Graf, Arantza Sanchez Vicario, Chris Evert and Monica Seles have earned more on the women's tour. She also made an estimated \$13 million from a perfume bearing her name, modelling clothes in fashion magazines and other endorsements. Becker was determined to take the game to Enqvist rather than becoming involved in a baseline duel. "My tactics were clear: play my game from the start," he said. "That was my best match since Wimbledon. It



Sabatini... rich talent

shows I have broken through the problems with the wrist. I surprised myself how well I played; I feel some pain, but as the tournament goes along it feels better and better." Andre Agassi and Chile's Marcelo Rios joined Becker in the last eight. Agassi beat his American Davis Cup colleague Richey Schroyer 6-4, 6-2 in 69 minutes, and Rios routed Holland's Richard Krajcek 6-4, 6-1.

Ice Hockey

British squad given a German accent

Vic Batchelder

TWO Canadian-born players in a 31-strong Great Britain squad named by the coach Peter Woods for three crucial Olympic qualification Group A games to be played in the next eight weeks. With the selection of the former Nottingham defence-man Darren Durdle — called up for the first time — and the former Humber-side forward Graham Garden, the squad has only 12 British-born and trained players, including three of the four netminders.

Unbeaten in five matches so far, Britain are three points behind Switzerland, the leaders, but have a game in hand. Victories over Slovenia at Sheffield on November 13 and Holland away on December 12 would see them regain first place, and if they then beat Switzerland at Sheffield on December 18, having already drawn away, they would progress to the final qualification tournament next February, from which five countries will go to the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano. SOVIAT Medvedeva (Moscow), Ekaterina Kostomarov (Moscow), Oksana Domnina (Nizhny Novgorod), Evgenia Medvedeva (Moscow), Tara Lipinski (Czech Republic), Tara Stiles (USA), Michelle Kwan (USA), and other skaters are mentioned in the text.

Sailing

Head winds hit Golding on the last lap to Rio

Bob Fisher

HEAD winds have slowed the progress of the leaders in the BT Global Challenge. Mike Golding's Group 4 made only seven miles towards Rio de Janeiro in two hours yesterday afternoon and still had 85 miles to go. At that rate she will not cross the finish line until after midday local time today. Golding and his crew will have one thought to compensate them for the extra hours they will spend at sea: the boats behind them are in similar conditions and are not closing the gap. Group 4 was still 40 miles ahead of Simon Walker's Toshiba Wave Warrior and a further 26 in front of Chris Tibbs's third-placed Concert.

Immediately behind the leaders — and likely to be a day after Group 4 in reaching the finish — Andy Hindley's Save the Children and Richard Merriweather's Commercial Union are continuing their close battle. It took 24 hours for Save the Children to gain two miles of her rival after Merriweather and his crew had drawn level from 15 miles astern.

Hindley reported: "All through the night CU and Save were never more than three miles apart, constantly monitoring each other's progress by radar."

Normal service resumes for relieved Becker

BORIS BECKER yesterday moved a step nearer qualifying for a place in next month's ATP World Championship in Hannover, which he won last year, by producing his most convincing performance since injuring his right wrist at Wimbledon in June. His serve is back near its awesome best; certainly Sweden's Thomas Enqvist found it virtually unplayable on the German's first 14 service points, and the sixth seed built on this fiery opening to win 6-4, 7-5 and reach the quarter-finals of the Eurocard Open in his home city of Stuttgart. Becker was determined to take the game to Enqvist rather than becoming involved in a baseline duel. "My tactics were clear: play my game from the start," he said. "That was my best match since Wimbledon. It

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Cricket Raza makes dazzling Test debut M longest...

SportsGuardian



Masters mockery... Robert Allenby, whose season was cut short by injury, plays to the first-tee gallery as he hits his one and only shot at Valderrama PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW REDINGTON

Allenby strikes it rich for charity in golf's great bonus-ball farce

David Davies reports from Valderrama

IT MAY not have been the shot that was heard around the world — more of a tiny tap with a three-wood — but the sound will surely reverberate round the halls of the headquarters of the PGA European Tour at Wentworth, Surrey. Robert Allenby yesterday hit the most ridiculous shot ever struck in golf when, in order to claim he had "competed" in the Volvo Masters here, he hit a gleaming new ball some 40 yards down the first fairway and promptly abandoned his round.

This charade was deemed necessary under the rules of the European Tour, which told the Australian to make a 25,000-mile round trip from Melbourne if he wanted to claim the bonus money that goes with this season-ending tournament. Allenby is unfit to play, still in severe pain after breaking his sternum in a car crash. "It feels," he said, "as if someone has planted an axe in my chest." But rules are rules. The bonus money was important to Allenby, not because he is short of the odd £73,000 — indeed he immediately announced that the money would be given to two charities, the Challenge Cancer Support Network and the Teenage Cancer Trust — but because he needs to finish as high as possible in the Volvo rankings in order to earn an invitation to the US Masters; he currently lies third. So, when he realised that the Tour was serious, he got out of his sick-bed, popped a few pain-killers and flew back. "I was dreading any turbulence," he said, "and anyone driving me in a car has to be very careful not to brake sharply." He said the doctors did not know how long his recovery would take, but he remains optimistic. "The week after I'm fully fit," he said, "I'll be back in a tournament. And I'm going to come back bigger and better than ever. I came close to death and that sets your mind racing. Life's too short not to give it your absolute best."

Coming clean about sport's sordid secret



Vincent Hanna

IT TOOK courage for Lorraine Merson and Sheryl Gascoigne to speak out about the violence done to them. But no one should believe that they are isolated cases. It is a sordid secret in competitive sport that immature men do stupid and criminal things. Create a world where violence is part of the culture, and the weak are sissies. Four a few drinks. Make sure that by being "manly" you objectify and deride women, or as Mr Merson put it: "All you've ever been to me is a pathetic little insect, crawling around my feet and getting in my way." Have a few more drinks. Beating up the wife is easy then. Many have escaped detection because of the bond of silence that binds battered wives to the embarrassed manager. Things only get awkward when the team is threatened. Take Gascoigne's case. He assaulted Sheryl on October 13. Three days later he stoned by kicking Winston Board of Ajax and was sent off. We had the usual tear-streaked apology about being a disgrace. Then he added: "I think I took the domestic problem into the match with me." Notice his priorities: the public concern was about the face of football — he could be punished for that — not messing up Sheryl's face. No doubt he is sorry for hitting Sheryl but the cost of hitting a footballer always will be higher. In America, in the past two years, the secret is out. There have been a number of cases of domestic violence by sports stars, notably O J Simpson and Warren Moon. They have spawned some serious research which we are only beginning to think about. Todd Crosset, from Dartmouth College, directed a study in 30 United States universities and found that student athletes were responsible for a significantly high proportion of assaults on women. "Part of their world is not to be a woman," writes Crosset. "Women are degraded. No one wants to be a sissy, women are to be despised." One high-school coach in Los Angeles

Sky's Premiership deal 'under scrutiny'

Andrew Culf on European plans to monitor Murdoch's exclusive television contract

BSKYB's record-breaking £670 million Premiership television deal was thrown into doubt last night after Europe's competition

market position achieved by some broadcasters, including Rupert Murdoch's satellite station. The commissioner, who has powers to revise contracts and fine broadcasters if he finds that European competition laws have been broken, is currently investigating a Dutch sports channel. Van Miert said last night that the BSKyB contract with the Premiership was being investigated as part of a "general monitoring exercise related to the overall phenomenon of exclusive TV rights on sports events". Opposition from the European authorities could pose a serious threat to Murdoch's

television ambitions. Last week he outlined plans to use sport as a "battering ram" for the expansion of his global pay-TV network. Van Miert angrily denied a report on BBC Radio 5 Live's Inside Edge programme that he was launching a formal investigation against BSKyB. But he said the deal would be carefully scrutinised. "What should not happen is that those acquiring the rights will be in such a dominant position that they are going to impose the rules," he told the programme. The monitoring exercise will run alongside a separate investigation being mounted by the Office of Fair Trading into the four-year deal, signed in June, which also involves the BBC. BSKyB outbid a Carlton/Mirror Group consortium and the MAI media group to secure live Premiership coverage, while the BBC retained highlights for Match of the Day. The Premiership clubs' chairman took only two hours to decide to award the contract to BSKyB. The OFT has already referred the present five-year deal, which expires in June, to the Restrictive Practices Court. Live football is vital to the future of BSKyB, which is largely dependent on income from its five million-plus subscribers. With the launch of 200 digital satellite channels expected next year, BSKyB is planning to screen all Premiership matches on a pay-per-view basis. Van Miert said: "We are worried: we have a lot of questions which we need to sort out as rapidly as possible. We must make sure the

Robson sets off scramble for out-of-favour Barmby

est remains very much alive, but he will be unable to reopen negotiations until his own future has been decided; after the League Cup defeat by Stockport on Tuesday, his position is precarious to say the least.

Leeds's new manager George Graham is keen to rebuild and has an estimated £10 million at his disposal. If he were to offer Les Sharp, a former team-mate of Robson's at Manchester United, in part exchange it is conceivable that Barmby could be a Leeds player before tomorrow's game at Arsenal. Everton's manager Joe Royle has indicated that he would like to have Barmby as a partner for Duncan Ferguson.

Guardian Crossword No 20,793

Set by Custos

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

Down

- Wrinkle given by parliamentarian in government (6)
- Mum, getting order, gave way (6)
- Reserve and pay for support for reader (9)
- Thingummy — was he this man, possibly? (5-3-4)
- A French fellow to deprive of fortitude (5)
- Turbulent, causing endless commotion about lawsuit mostly (8)
- Talking through the nose, when settled in New York (8)
- Thriving business causing anxiety after being sold (5,7)
- Some deliver worthless plant (9)
- Type of central heating having remarkably safe grid (3-3)
- Outlawy covers nasty bones of ignoble birth (4-4)
- A film ends cryptically, making point perhaps? (9)

Across

- Advanced to deliver an ornamental receptacle (4-4)
- Cake provided by miss at home (6)
- Herb for seasoning brings damage to gold colour in preserve (8)
- Garments to scoff at on board ship (6)
- Brings ashore youngsters, about last of platoon (6)
- Bird to make love sentimentally and caress fondly (9)
- Countrywide search for association of riders (8,4)
- Crooked lad can advise where great treasure is stored (8,4)
- A film ends cryptically, making point perhaps? (9)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,792

23 Broken-down remains seen in journeys round India's capital (5)
 24 Callow trainee that is attached to the castle (6)
 25 Delighted about Josephine getting frozen (8)
 26 Fellow with a crib is a stupid person (6)
 27 Settles in part of the theatre (8)

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